

Submitter: Shawne Martinez
On Behalf Of: BikeLoudPDX
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2571

Members of the House Committee On Climate,

I am writing in support of House Bill 2571. Less than 3 years ago we purchased an electric cargo bike to transport our then preschooler around. Since then we have replaced over 15,000 miles of fossil fuel powered vehicle trips by riding our e-cargo bike instead. As I became aware of the terrible effects of diesel particulate matter on children, I decided to stop driving a giant empty diesel pickup truck for a daily driver and rely exclusively on our e-cargo bike. I am now car (truck) free and have become multi-modal combining trips with bikes, bus, light rail and Amtrak. (We took our bikes on the WES for the first time yesterday!)

We have some big hills in NE Tigard/SW Portland. As our kid (and their stuff) grew heavier and I grew older, riding a bike up these hills was becoming less pleasant. Having an e-bike has flattened the hills and made the car-free lifestyle a reality. A round-trip bike ride from Tigard to NE Portland can involve 2,000+ feet of climbing!

We currently offer thousands of dollars in incentives for people to purchase an electric car. Terrible land use policies for car storage and the physical space that single occupancy vehicles take on our roads show us that while there are no tailpipe emissions, electric cars are not going to save us. In fact, electric cars are heavier which increases damage to our already crumbling roads, puts more tire particles in our waterways and makes cars more dangerous for people walking and rolling.

The resources that go into making just one electric pickup truck battery could produce hundreds of e-bike batteries. Bicycle manufacturers are already implementing battery recycling programs that will keep these resources out of landfills.

A barrier for many people is the upfront cost of e-bikes. Especially an e-cargo bike that can carry children and groceries. (A true car replacement) Offering incentives for e-bikes will:

- Reduce traffic congestion.
- Decrease transportation emissions
- Promote healthy lifestyles/active transportation
- Lower incidents of traffic violence
- Reduce wear and maintenance on our roads
- Lower healthcare costs (sedentary lifestyle)

It's a win for everyone. Even those that choose to drive.

Thank you for your time!

Shawne Martinez

BikeLoud PDX