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February 07, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Corvallis City Council to request your support for HB 2571, which will provide rebates for the purchase of electric bicycles for qualifying Oregonians.

The proposed program is closely modeled after a program that was created in Benton County in 2021, so I can speak personally to the positive impacts of the program. Participants in our program reported an increase in exercise and energy and a decrease in reliance on car trips. For Oregonians who, either for medical, financial, or other reasons, are unable to drive, an e-bike can be a way to be more mobile and independent, thus improving economic opportunities and quality of life. Our small businesses also benefited, as a \$60,000 grant to start the program was converted into more than \$84,000 spent at our local bike shops.

Additionally, we know that to tackle the impacts of climate change, we must change our behavior. According to the Oregon Global Warming Commission 2020 report to the legislature, transportation accounts for more than a third of Oregon's total greenhouse gas emissions. If we are to take accountability for Oregon's contribution to global climate change, we should be providing and encouraging an opportunity for Oregonians to find alternatives to fossil fuel-based transportation.

The Corvallis City Council unanimously supports this concept and respectfully requests that you support HB 2571.

Sincerely,

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Charles Maughan
Mayor