

Submitter: Emily Kemper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2571

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am strongly in support of any statewide program or initiative designed to promote the adoption of electric bicycles. Electric bicycles are the future of urban transportation in a lower carbon-emitting world, and Oregonians are national leaders in promoting bikes and bicycle infrastructure, so I am pleased that this is on the table. Electric bikes can be transformative in a person's life; they can enable families to commute to school without a car, they can enable people with disabilities or limited mobility to enjoy the outdoors, and they can give lower income folks a very low cost method of transportation, just to name a few of many e-bike benefits.

The only constructive comment that I might add is, if our state leads the country in e-bike adoption, then we should follow through on our commitment to provide bike- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to truly set us on a path to having low- or zero-carbon communities. Vision Zero goals are not currently working, and traffic fatalities are up; and, if folks are to adopt e-bikes AND ride them safely to work, school, or wherever they want to go, they have to have safe routes to do that. So, while I strongly support this bill, I would love to see the state of Oregon follow up with budget and new initiatives to evolve our built environment in the direction of safety and lower carbon emissions.