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February 8, 2023

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

#### Re: Support for HB 2571 establishing e-bike rebate program

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and members of the Committee,

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit that is building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

The traditional bicycle is the most efficient form of transportation ever invented. A bicycle can transport people, goods, and services powered only by the food the rider eats, with no emissions, and with a small footprint on our streets and planet. Moreover, riding a bicycle promotes health. But not everyone is physically prepared to ride a bicycle as fast or far as desired.

Enter the *electric* bicycle. Octogenarian William Shatner brags that on an e-bike he can whiz past younger riders.<sup>1</sup> In Lane County, we are seeing a growing number of seniors and others using e-bikes as a practical form of transportation. For many people and kinds of trips, riding an e-bikes compares favorably to driving a car alone.

But as e-bikes can cost significantly more than traditional bikes, they are not within reach of everyone, especially Oregonians who struggle to afford *any* form of transportation: car, bus, or bicycle.

BEST supports House Bill 2571 as a way to expand the adoption of e-bikes across Oregon; to advance goals for public health and reduced roadway congestion; and to increase equity while lowering emissions.

For BEST,

Rob Zako  
Executive Director  
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<sup>1</sup> "Love Stories: William Shatner," Pedego Electric Bikes, 10/16/17, <https://pedegoelectricbikes.com/blog/william-shatner>.

Building a successful community by bringing people together  
to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

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BEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Tax ID #42-1661720.

P.S. As he is out of the office this week, Juan Serpa Muñoz of the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) asked me to submit the following comments on his behalf.

## Testimony from Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)

Eugene Water & Electric Board started an electric bicycle (e-bike) program in late April of 2022. This effort was accomplished with support from the Oregon’s Clean Fuels Program. Throughout 2022, EWEB provided rebates for 971 e-bikes with the following adoption per month and various e-bike costs.

2022	EWEB E-Bike Program Adoption by Month									Totals
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Projects	0	47	109	74	148	124	190	86	77	855
Single E-Bike Projects	0	47	109	74	128	104	149	67	61	739
Two E-Bike Projects	0	0	0	0	20	20	41	19	16	116
Total E-Bikes	0	47	109	74	168	144	231	105	93	971
Average E-Bike Cost	\$0	\$3,396	\$2,356	\$2,199	\$2,287	\$2,120	\$1,484	\$1,769	\$1,569	\$2,067
Maximum E-Bike Cost	\$0	\$11,472	\$7,700	\$5,360	\$8,609	\$10,591	\$8,000	\$11,472	\$12,398	\$12,398
Minimum E-Bike Cost	\$0	\$1,098	\$300	\$300	\$339	\$340	\$300	\$499	\$340	\$300

Looking at our single-e-bike projects, the following is the rebate distribution for e-bikes based on cost. Here, we can see that over 80% of the rebates were able to go to e-bikes with costs of \$3,000 or less.

EWEB Single E-Bike Projects Rebate Distribution			
E-Bike Cost	Single E-Bike Projects	Distribution Percentage	Aggregate Percentage
Up to \$500	102	13.8%	82.4%
\$501 to \$1500	171	23.1%	
\$1,501 to \$3,000	336	45.5%	
\$3,001 to \$6,000	115	15.6%	17.6%
\$6,001 to \$10,000	13	1.8%	
Over \$10,000	2	0.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

EWEB’s e-bike program has been a success in providing more affordable access to electric transportation, but cost barriers remain. Additional funding, including rebates will help close the accessibility gap for e-bikes, especially in areas where an e-bike rebate program may not be available. EWEB looks to explore additional e-bike opportunities and partnerships in 2023, including lending libraries to offer greater access to our community.



Juan J Serpa Muñoz | Business Line Manager

Eugene Water & Electric Board | Eugene, Oregon

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