

Submitter: Susan Wolling

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2963

Please support HB 2963, the E-Bike Subsidy bill, so more Oregonians can experience the many benefits of traveling by bicycle. I have relied on a bike for nearly all of my transportation for many years—commuting to work, grocery shopping, errands, and pleasure. My reasons for riding are many: it's better for the environment and fights climate change, it helps reduce traffic congestion and allows me to avoid getting stuck in heavy traffic, it's good for my health, it saves money on gas and car maintenance, and I enjoy being in the natural world where I can hear birds singing and smell flowers blooming—and riding a bike is fun, besides.

I have always wondered why more people don't travel by bike—but lately, some of them are, thanks to e-bikes! E-bikes eliminate many of the obstacles that have kept people from bicycling: steep hills, long distance and time. But I've noticed that the switch to e-bikes is occurring mostly in the wealthier parts of town, where people can afford an e-bike. Many of the people who would most benefit from the lower cost and added convenience of bicycling can't afford the start-up cost of buying an e-bike. HB 2963 would help bridge the gap, so we can meet our goals for clean air, better health, equity and transportation.