

Submitter: Rich Peppers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3626
Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Committee:

I urge your support for HB 3626. My name is Rich Peppers and I live in Portland. I am Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of experienced volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

One of the strategies for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions (and achieving many other benefits such as better population health and more efficient use of space) is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in regular fossil fuel-powered cars. To accomplish this purpose, it is helpful to encourage people to use other modes of travel, of which there are many. HB 3628 focuses on using so-called "micro-mobility" options such as e-bikes or e-scooters. Micro-mobility options have many advantages besides carbon emissions reductions, such as reducing congestion, being less costly, and reducing noise levels, and more.

HB 3626 sets clear standards of safety for the use of electric bikes, skateboards, scooters, as well as powered wheelchairs used on bike lanes. Making these rules consistent will make enforcement more straightforward and clarify the rules for use of bicycle lanes by higher-speed vehicles. Requiring headgear reduces injuries from crashes. And setting battery standards reduces fires caused by nonstandard batteries.

HB 3626 provides for an education program to improve safety for riders in bike lanes and improve safety awareness of drivers.

I am also a bicycle rider, and I urge your support for HB 3626.

Thank you for your consideration.