Submitter:	Gary Shaff
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3626

I object to the definition included in Section 2 of the bill that establishes a 30 MPH maximum speed. The maximum speed should be no higher than 28 MPH, the speed a class 3 e-bike can be ridden while under power. E-bikes and traditional bikes, while going downhill, can easily exceed 30 MPH. Would the bill, as written, have the effect of changing the characterization of an e-bike on the basis of how fast it was being ridden? At thirty MPH (again this should be 28) it would be a “powered micro-mobility device” but above that speed a motorcycle or moped.

I believe that class 3 e-bikes (because they can so readily be modified to travel at unacceptably high speeds) should be classified as motorcycles or mopeds and be licensed, insured, and riden only by people who have a drivers license. In fact, it is preferably for the legislature to substitute the old Oregon definition of “electric assisted bicycle” instead of using classes (1, 2 or 3) as existed in Oregon law prior to 2024 (as below).

Electric assisted bicycle” means a vehicle that:
(1) Is designed to be operated on the ground on wheels;
(2) Has a seat or saddle for use of the rider;
(3) Is designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground;
(4) Has both fully operative pedals for human propulsion and an electric motor; and
(5) Is equipped with an electric motor that:
(a) Has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts; and
(b) Is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 20 miles per hour on level ground. [1997 c.400 §2; 1999 c.59 §233]

Bicycles operating at speeds faster than 20 MPH on flat ground are: 1) dangerous for other people riding bicycles (when overtaking and passing another bicycle given the narrow width of bicycle facilities - often times five feet or less), 2) not expected by motor vehicles in a bike lane, and 3) represent an ever present danger to pedestrians walking on multi-use paths.