

March 18, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St. NE Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 3626 and HB 2963

Chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice-Chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brett Morgan, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Climate Solutions in strong support of HB 3626 and HB 2963. Climate Solutions is a Northwest-based nonprofit dedicated to advancing clean energy solutions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ensuring equitable, sustainable transportation options for all Oregonians.

E-micromobility solutions, particularly electric bicycles (e-bikes), are critical for achieving our climate and equity goals. E-bikes offer affordable, reliable, and low-carbon transportation, significantly reducing dependency on cars, lowering household transportation costs, and alleviating road congestion. Climate Solutions strongly supports HB 2963, the e-bike subsidy bill, because it helps Oregonians reduce their reliance on fossil-fuel-powered vehicles by making e-bikes accessible, especially for low-income residents.

E-micromobility is an integrated part of the broader decarbonization strategy, complementing efforts ranging from electrifying passenger cars to transitioning heavy-duty trucks to zero emissions. All these systems are interconnected, and e-micromobility complements these other modes by addressing short trips and unique transportation needs, enhancing the overall effectiveness of our clean transportation network.

Notably, per trip, biking—especially with e-bikes—provides substantial climate benefits compared to car trips. E-bikes enable riders to travel further and faster with less effort, making active transportation accessible to more people regardless of physical ability. This increased accessibility encourages widespread adoption of sustainable transportation choices, significantly amplifying our collective impact on emissions reduction. Climate Solutions' report, *Transforming Our Transportation*, emphasizes reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as a core strategy for achieving near-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and highlights the complementary nature of active transportation options and broader efforts to decarbonize our transportation system.



By providing financial assistance for purchasing e-bikes, this bill empowers more Oregonians to choose sustainable transportation, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and building greater economic resilience. Subsidizing e-bikes also means increased connectivity and independence for communities underserved by traditional public transit, ensuring equitable mobility across rural, suburban, and urban Oregon.

In addition, Climate Solutions firmly supports HB 3626 because it establishes clear and consistent micromobility safety standards statewide. We frequently advocate for integrated transportation policies prioritizing safety, sustainability, and accessibility. Currently, unclear and inconsistent micromobility regulations create confusion, limit ridership, and pose safety risks for riders and pedestrians alike. By setting uniform rules—such as standardized helmet requirements, clear age limits, and defined regulations on speed and equipment—HB 3626 will enhance safety, reduce crashes, and promote responsible ridership. This in turn, supports more e-micromobility use and support in the public, helping reduce driving and creating a whole range of positive co-benefits.

Furthermore, the public education campaign outlined in HB 3626 will significantly improve public awareness, enabling drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to safely coexist on Oregon's streets and pathways. Enhanced education and clear communication of micromobility laws reduce conflicts, foster mutual respect, and improve road safety.

Together, HB 2963 and HB 3626 represent a comprehensive approach to enhancing sustainable transportation options in Oregon. Investing in affordability and safety ensures that micromobility can effectively replace short car trips, easing road congestion, lowering transportation emissions, and building safer, healthier, and more resilient communities.

We strongly urge your support for HB 3626 and HB 2963. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Morgan

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