



March 17, 2025

Senator Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and Members of the Committee,

My name is Neil Baunsgard, and I serve as the Transportation and Climate Policy Manager at The Environmental Center, which works to embed sustainability in daily life here in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 3626 and want to thank Representatives Levy and Nguyen for their leadership on this important legislation.

Oregon's transportation system must serve the needs of all residents, including the approximately 30% of Oregonians who do not drive. The increasing adoption of electric micromobility options, such as e-bikes and e-scooters, reflects a growing demand for safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation alternatives. In Central Oregon, we have seen a significant rise in e-mobility use, particularly as more individuals seek affordable and efficient ways to travel.

With this growth, however, comes the need for clear and consistent regulations. HB 3626 presents a practical approach by addressing behaviors such as speed, rather than focusing solely on vehicle type. One of the bill's key provisions—simplifying the legal riding age for lower-speed e-bikes—will provide young riders with greater independence and mobility. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, which have a maximum speed of 20 mph, offer a safe and reliable option for middle school and high school youth to travel to school, activities, and jobs. This not only alleviates transportation burdens on families but also fosters responsibility and self-sufficiency among young riders.

Additionally, one of the most persistent challenges we hear from our community in Bend is the lack of clarity regarding where and how e-mobility devices can be used. HB 3626 will help address this issue by establishing clear, enforceable rules that ensure safety while maintaining access for all users. Local governments, law enforcement, and riders alike will benefit from streamlined regulations that prioritize safety, consistency, and accessibility.

Ensuring safe, equitable transportation options for all Oregonians is critical to the future of our communities. I respectfully urge your support for HB 3626 and appreciate your consideration of this important legislation.

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