

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation
re: HB 2963**

March 17, 2025

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance equitable, innovative, and collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 2963

Dear Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our thousands of members statewide, I am writing today to strongly support HB 2963.

Transportation accounts for roughly 35 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. One of the key strategies for Oregon to hit these targets is to reduce the miles traveled by gas powered vehicles, and a core component of this strategy are electric micromobility devices.

Powered electric micromobility devices are practical and affordable options for a growing number of Oregonians, especially those who are not able to drive regularly, whether due to age, ability, or income level. E-bikes offer affordable, reliable, and low-carbon transportation, significantly reducing dependency on cars, lowering household transportation costs, and alleviating road congestion.

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.

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.

We strongly urge your support for HB 2963.

Sincerely,

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