

OREGON PROGRESSIVE PARTY



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July 1, 2017

Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2017 Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 2017 -10: Oppose Lack of Rebates for Electric Bicycles and Tricycles and Electric Scooters

Dear Committee:

The -10 proposed amendments to HB 2017 offer rebates for electric and hybrid electric vehicles, but only for large vehicles capable of achieving 55 mph.

Substituting 3,000 pound electric cars in place of 3,000 pound internal combustion cars will prolong the underlying problem of having a personal transportation system that expends 80% or more of its energy usage on moving the vehicle itself, not its contents.

The rebates should be available to smaller electric and hybrid human-electric vehicles, such as electric bicycles and tricycles. There are many dozens of makes and models on the market, but their sales are quite low due to the up front cost of the electric motor and related systems and components. Providing a sizable rebate for electric-assist bicycles and tricycles would take many thousands of large vehicles off the road, most of which usually carry only the driver.

The rebates should also be available for electric scooters that have no human power input. While less efficient than electric-assist bicycles and tricycles, electric scooters remain 5 times as efficient for transporting one person that the smallest conventional electric car.

Getting people out of cars and into bicycle, tricycles, and scooters would also by itself significantly increase the capacity of Oregon's streets and roads. These vehicles can safely proceed 2 or 3 abreast on a street or road lane of conventional width. Electric-assist bicycles and tricycles can also safely use

bike paths and bike lanes.

HB 2017 -10 thus overlooks the single most effective way to reduce energy use, emissions, and traffic congestion from passenger vehicles in Oregon.

Note: at the time of the public hearing on HB 2017, the bill consisted of one paragraph calling upon the department of Transportation to make a report to the Legislature. No bill and no amendment providing rebates for the purchase of vehicles was posted to OLIS prior to yesterday. Consequently, the Committee should accept this testimony.

Oregon Progressive Party

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