

OREGON PROGRESSIVE PARTY



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Oregon Progressive Party

Position on Bill at 2018

Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 4060: Need to Reform Financial Incentives for Electric Vehicles to Remove Bias Against Small Ones

Dear Committee:

HB 2017, enacted in 2017, offers 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 overlooked the single most effective way to reduce energy use, emissions, and traffic congestion from passenger vehicles in Oregon.

It also overlooked a effective way of reducing pollution from diesel trucks. Several European cities have banned combustion-engine trucks from their central areas. Goods are delivered there by electric vehicles, including fleets of hybrid human-electric powered tricycles, as shown in the photos below. Encouraging use of such vehicles in Oregon (and throughout the USA) would produce additional economic benefit for Oregon, because the nation's foremost manufacturer of such vehicles is located in Portland. Stites Design, Inc., produces hybrid human-electric powered tricycles for United Parcel Service (see photos below) and others. See <http://www.trucktrike.com>.

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