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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Daniel J. Ankeles

7 Beech Drive
Brunswick, ME 04011
Daniel.Ankeles@legislature.maine.gov
Cell Phone: (207) 756-3793

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Dan Ankeles
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
In Support of LD 256, An Act To Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. I am Representative Dan Ankeles, and I serve House District 100, a central slice of Brunswick that includes our downtown, Mere Point, Bowdoin College, the former naval airbase and not one, but two Hannaford locations. It's an honor to be with you to testify briefly in support of **LD 256, An Act To Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program**.

I promise I'm not just here because the bill sponsor is a constituent of mine, though she is indeed a great force for good in our community. I'm here because of my experience in local government - where we are actively embracing increased bicycle and pedestrian access and infrastructure. And I'm also here because I thought it would be a good idea if you heard from a member of the Transportation Committee. Energy rebates are surely your territory, but there is a broader context to this bill that is right in our committee's wheelhouse.

Our job on the Transportation Committee is to make sure Mainers have access to safe, well-maintained roads. It's also to make sure our transportation sector is being environmentally responsible. But more than both of those things, we are in the business of making sure that all Mainers can get from Point A to Point B when the need arises. And, increasingly, we're learning that you can accomplish that goal more effectively when you broaden access to a wider variety of modes of transportation.

I look at a modest investment like the one this bill proposes, and I think of the return we get if more people are able to go to work. There is so much hidden value to the public in a stable commute to work. Making that commute more affordable for people is huge, and this bill gives more people access to a relatively low-cost option compared to a car. And with our workforce shortage in so many sectors, every little bit helps. You'll hear from others behind me that people trying to stretch every dollar could make some real use out of this.

I am happy to attempt to answer questions or seek out answers in advance of the work session. Thank you again for taking the time to listen to my testimony and all the testimony you will hear today.