

LD 256 “An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program”

Good afternoon Members of the Energy, Utility, and Technology Committee. My name is Jamie Wright, and I am the founder and owner of Gorham Bike & Ski. I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth, and I am here today to urge you to vote in SUPPORT of LD 256.

Gorham Bike & Ski has been in business for 28 years and has been selling E-bikes for over half that time. In 2022 E-bikes represented 10% of our total sales, which has grown rapidly over the last five years. Our company mission is “To help people find and pursue their passion for a healthy, active outdoor lifestyle.” And we believe E-bikes play a significant role in helping our customers achieve their goals.

With our 5 locations here in Maine, from Waterville to Wells. We see a real opportunity for more people to commute or do daily errands on an E-bike.

What we see are the benefits of owning an E-bike?

- They can save you money. Owning an E-bike is far cheaper than buying, insuring, and maintaining a car.
- They will help you ride further, faster, and longer because you’ve got an added bit of oomph on board so that you can travel further distances from home.
- They can help with your fitness. If you’re riding your E-bike to do errands or commute to work, you are pedaling more, even if that electric motor is occasionally helping you out.

I have used Efficiency Maine rebates to update the lighting in my stores, which lowers my energy cost and also benefits the environment. I also added heat pumps in my home for the same reason.

I think offering a rebate on E-bikes is a win for everyone involved. It reduces the upfront costs of owning one, which helps lower-income Mainers afford one. E-bike reduces traffic congestion and parking problems in urban areas. It has health benefits for the rider and is good for our environment.

I would encourage you to support LD 256 for these reasons.

Thank you for your time, and I would gladly answer any questions.