

LD 256 TESTIMONY

NOTE:

Thaddeus St John

Lincoln & Main - Electric Bike Cafe & Winery

1/30/2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of

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 Thaddeus St. John and I am writing to you on behalf of Lincoln & Main Electric Bike Cafe today to urge you to vote in SUPPORT of LD 256.

INTRO – I co - own and operate Lincoln & Main - Maine's only exclusive Electric bike dealer. I started this company for my love of electric bikes and the ability that they have to make biking, specifically electrical powered biking more than just a recreational activity.

SECTION I – Our business is located in the heart of the industrial neighborhood of South Portland. Last year South Portland created a citywide rebate "Electrify Everything" that gave a financial incentive for people to purchase Ebikes. Not only did this program create an overall awareness of the ever growing world of Electric Bikes it created a bigger awareness of how we can use bikes as a utilitarian purpose. We saw a significant boost in business because of the "Electrify Everything" program and our number 1 selling bike frame was a cargo bike. There are so many positives with this type of program - A means of transportation for low income Mainer's, better for the environment, and life longevity for generations of Mainers.

SECTION II - Having Ebikes as part of the efficiency Maine program would create a healthier Maine. That's the bottom line. The possibility of having neighbors use their cars less and become greener as a collective unit would dramatically increase longevity, community building and socially conscious people.

SECTION III – I urge you on behalf of the community that I serve that with your support we can advance to a healthier and happier statewide community. We are all neighbors - we choose to live in a place that offers so much, why wouldn't give back to it anyway we can? I encourage you to vote in support of LD 256 because I believe it's the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have

Thaddeus St. John