February 7, 2023

Testimony of Lauri Boxer-Macomber IN SUPPORT of LD 256: An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

Members of the Energy, Utility and Technology Committee:

My name is Lauri Boxer-Macomber. I am a resident of Portland, Maine, a long-standing board member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, an active transportation advocate, and the head of Kelly, Remmel & Zimmerman's bicycle and pedestrian law practice.

Over the last decade, my work as an attorney in Maine has been almost entirely focused on bicycle and pedestrian law. In the scope and course of my work, I have been increasingly exposed to e-bikes here in Maine, nationally and abroad. E-bikes are part of our low carbon mobility future. The interest in, and use of, e-bikes in the State of Maine is an extraordinarily positive development.

Incentivizing the use of e-bikes and expanding access to them through the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program makes sense for many reasons, including the reasons set forth below.

1. E-bikes have the potential to reduce the number of cars on our roadways, especially in urban areas where most motor vehicle trips involve travel of less than five miles and could easily be substituted with an e-bike.

2. E-bikes help mitigate the harmful effects of climate change and have an even greater potential than e-vehicles to reduce emissions and congestion on our roadways, which means that they may be even better suited than e-vehicles to accomplish the environmental, public health and other purposes of the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program.

3. Diversifying the State of Maine's clean transportation strategy is consistent with the Maine Department of Transportation's Draft Active Transportation Plan.

4. E-bikes are significantly more affordable than e-vehicles, making them more accessible to a wider range of Maine residents, especially those who have a hard time affording gas, parking, and public transportation.

Please vote in support of LD 256.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and public service.