

**Testimony before the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
February 7, 2023**

**LD 256 – An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Emily K. Green and I am a senior attorney with Conservation Law Foundation. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 256, An Act to Add Electric Bicycles to the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program.

CLF, founded in 1966, is a public interest advocacy group that works to solve the environmental challenges threatening the people, natural resources and communities in Maine and across New England. In Maine for almost four decades, CLF is a member-supported organization that works to ensure that policies are developed, implemented and enforced that protect and restore our natural resources. We advocate for solutions that equitably address the climate crisis while advancing Maine's economy and protecting the environment.

To mitigate climate change, Maine adopted aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reductions levels set forth in 38 M.R.S. § 576-A. Maine's transportation sector contributes nearly half of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The state has identified electrification as a principal strategy for decarbonizing. According to state modelling, reducing emissions 45% within the next seven years demands robust and rapid electrification. Maine law requires that equity be a core component of climate mitigation (and adaptation) strategies, including transportation electrification.

LD 256 would expand the Efficiency Maine Trust's electric vehicle rebate program to include electric bicycles. We support this bill because it would enable more people in Maine to benefit from clean, zero-emission transportation. We applaud the Efficiency Maine Trust for taking several steps in the last year to increase access for low-income drivers to its electric vehicle purchase incentives. But even with those enhancements, there will be Mainers for whom an electric bicycle is an appropriate and certainly more affordable way to get around. There is no one-size-fits all solution to clean mobility, so the state should simultaneously pursue complementary strategies. We therefore support the establishment of a program to assist Mainers with the purchase costs of electric bicycles, to supplement the EV rebate program the Trust already administers. We urge that the program be designed to prioritize disadvantaged and low-income Mainers for benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testify in support of LD 256.

Emily Green  
Conservation Law Foundation  
LD 256

Please find the testimony of Conservation Law Foundation in support of LD 256 attached. Thank you for your consideration.