



April 6, 2021

**Testimony in Support of LD 1110
An Act to Clarify the Authority To Manage Electric Bicycle Access to
Off-Road Trails**

Greetings members of the Committee on Transportation. I am Eliza Cress, outreach manager for the BCM, and this testimony is submitted on behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. The Coalition supports LD 1110, “An Act to Clarify the Authority To Manage Electric Bicycle Access to Off-road Trails,” and recommends that the committee issue an “ought to pass” report on this bill.

As a leading statewide organization advocating for access to active transportation opportunities for all pedestrians and people on bicycles, we support this bill, which will provide greater clarity about the use of electric-assist bicycles on mountain bike trails across Maine.

Electric bikes are already being ridden on trails across Maine, but the language used in the current law has created uncertainty about what trail areas are open to people riding electric-assist bicycles, and some people may be riding them on trails where they are technically prohibited. If passed, LD 1110 would encourage trail managers to clarify their position on the use of electric-assist bicycles on their trails.

Electric-assist bicycles are growing in popularity because they help all kinds of riders get outside and pedaling. Research has established that electric-assist bicycles do no more damage to trails than unassisted bicycles, and we have not heard of any instance of electric-assist bicycle-related user conflicts on mountain bike trails—or anywhere else.

The change LD 1110 makes will encourage trail managers to proactively post a “Closed to E-bike” status if they choose to prohibit electric-assist bicycles.

Clarification over trail accessibility of electric-assist bicycles would benefit the trail managers, the owners and riders of electric-assist bicycles, the shops and retailers that carry them, and the cities and regions where these trail systems are located. By making it clear that Class 1 and 2 electric-assist bicycles are not illegal to use on mountain bike trails and, in fact, permitted (Class 1 and 2) on most off-road places where bicycles are used, this bill will align the use of electric-assist bicycles with other land uses, which are typically posted to prohibit certain activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for LD 1110.

On behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine,

Eliza Cress
Outreach Manager

