



April 6, 2021

**Testimony in Support of LD 1109
An Act to Align Equipment Requirements for Electric Bicycles with National
Manufacturing Standards**

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 1109, An Act to Align Equipment Requirements for Electric Bicycles with National Manufacturing Standards, and recommends that the committee issue an "ought to pass" report on this bill.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine supports this bill because it will align the speedometer requirements for electric-assist bicycles under Maine law with the types of equipment installed on electric bicycles when manufactured and shipped nationally.

This bill corrects a flaw in the original law regulating low-speed electric-assist bicycles. The original bill proposed that only Class 3 electric-assist bicycles required speedometers (the fastest class of electric-assist bicycles with a maximum speed of x. 28 mph). Unfortunately, this recommendation was made a requirement for all three classes of electric-assist bicycles.

This mandate in the Maine law is unnecessary and complicates things for small bike shops that carry electric-assist bicycles, and this legislation would modify the law to state that only Class 3 electric-assist bicycles are required to come equipped with speedometers.

The electric-assisted bicycle market is currently growing steadily across the U.S. Ensuring that Maine state law is in line with national standards for manufacturing and shipping will help Maine's bike shops. Electric-assist bicycles are encouraging more people (of all ages, shapes, and abilities) to get outside and pedal. As the leading statewide organization advocating for all pedestrians and people on bikes, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine believes that electric-assist bicycles have the potential to promote greater access to active transportation for a healthier lifestyle and environment. This small change in language will help Maine align with national electric-assist bicycle standards for manufacturing and distribution.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for LD 1109.

On behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine,

Eliza Cress
Outreach Manager

