



HB 156 – Transportation – Electrical Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program - Establishment

Environment & Transportation Committee

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Josh Feldmark

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Position: Support

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Joshua Feldmark representing Bike Maryland. We represent cyclists of all abilities across the state who ride 5 miles around the park with their families, for transportation, to a 100 mile ride. We believe that absolutely everyone should feel safe when they are on Maryland roads.

First a confession – me, Mr. Bicycle, owns and often rides an e-bike. While I still often ride my acoustic bike for fun the ebike serves largely as a utilitarian rather than recreational purpose for me. I originally purchased it because my work commute was simply too much on my regular bike but perfect for an ebike. In fact, it took no more than 5-10 minutes more on the ebike than in a car. Then I began using it for nearby errands like grocery store and haircut. I say all this to say that my ebike quantifiably took vehicle miles off of our road which of course is a goal for relieving congestion and of course fighting climate change.

Although not currently largely utilized – ebikes can provide an alternative for those who need a vehicle but can not afford a reliable car or as a backup for those who can not afford a new car and currently own an unreliable one. Specifically in urban and inner suburban areas, ebikes could be the difference in allowing folks access to a broader range of jobs and services.

Additionally, potential ebike users like me who can afford a car but would prefer to not use it whenever possible a true alternative. By making it possible (or in some cases MORE possible) we would be, as with my example, taking vehicle miles off the road, which among other things, is a critical component of reaching or carbon reduction goals statewide.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 156.