



*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St  
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Bill Number: 7713 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ELECTRIC BICYCLES

Dear Chairman Solomon and Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 7713, which seeks to define classes of electric bicycles and expand their access to state bicycle trails and paths. This legislation represents a significant step forward in promoting sustainable transportation options and enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

By defining three distinct classes of electric bicycles and authorizing the Department of Environmental Management to determine allowable uses of electric bicycles on properties under its jurisdiction, this bill addresses the growing demand for clarity and regulation in the realm of electric bicycle usage. Such classification will ensure that electric bicycles are appropriately categorized based on their capabilities, facilitating safer and more responsible usage on public trails and paths.

Furthermore, the provision to allow Class 1 electric bicycles to legally access state bicycle trails or paths is particularly commendable. Class 1 electric bicycles, which provide assistance only when the rider is pedaling and cease to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour, offer a low-impact and eco-friendly mode of transportation for individuals of varying abilities and fitness levels. Granting access to state bicycle trails and paths will not only encourage active lifestyles but also contribute to reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, by expanding access to electric bicycles on state bicycle trails and paths, House Bill 7713 promotes inclusivity and accessibility in outdoor recreation. Electric bicycles enable individuals who may face physical limitations or mobility challenges to experience the joy of cycling and explore natural landscapes that were previously inaccessible to them. This legislation aligns with our commitment to fostering equitable access to recreational opportunities for all members of our community.

In conclusion, we support DEM's efforts to define classes of electric bicycles to better determine allowable uses on properties under their jurisdiction. By embracing sustainable transportation alternatives and promoting outdoor recreation, we can create healthier, more vibrant communities for generations to come.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Bodah".

David M. Bodah  
Associate Director

Cc: House Corporations Committee  
Representative Boylan  
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director