



Kim Coble
Executive Director

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2023 Board of
Directors

SUPPORT: HB 1008 - Maryland Energy Administration - Electric Bicycle Rebate Program - Establishment

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Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports adoption of HB 1008 and we are grateful for Delegate Lewis's leadership for introducing this bill to incentivise and support alternative electric transportation options. Electric bikes represent an important opportunity for added equity in the transportation sector. As our nation transitions to zero-emissions vehicles, active mobility solutions, such as e-bikes, are an important part of the puzzle. E-bikes are convenient and significantly more affordable than the least expensive electric car models available.

Maryland's transportation sector is responsible for more than a third of our state's total greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, earlier this year, the finance website, WalletHub.com ranked Maryland as the worst state for traffic congestion in the country¹. Greater adoption of e-bikes offers an opportunity to both reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Recognizing that e-bikes come with a much higher price tag than traditional bicycles however, the rebate program HB 1008 would establish would aid in increased e-bike adoption while recognizing the value e-bikes offer in supporting alternative transportation options in our state.

In 2021 Denver, Colorado offered a rebate program for e-bikes, which was hugely popular. People who took advantage of the program reported replacing an average of 3.4 car trips each week. In a country where 52% of car trips are reported to be only three miles or less², e-bikes offer an important solution to reducing overall car traffic.

Maryland LCV sees HB 1008 as an integral piece of comprehensive transportation solutions that will continue to make Maryland a leader in reducing climate emissions and improving the overall quality of life for all residents.

¹ <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-drive-in/43012>

² <https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/articles/fotw-1230-march-21-2022-more-half-all-daily-trips-were-less-three-miles-2021>