



March 12, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman
 Chair, Transportation Committee
 California State Assembly
 Via Committee Portal

Dear Assemblymember Friedman:

On behalf of the organizations listed below and our respective members across California, we submit this letter in strong support of Assembly Bill 117, which will create a program within the Air Quality Improvement Program to facilitate Californians' adoption of electric bicycles as a low-pollution mode of transportation.

Increasing the number of trips that Californians make by bicycle, in combination with land use changes and improvements to walking and transit, is essential to achieving the reduction in vehicle miles traveled called for in SB 375, and is absolutely necessary if we are to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals. By making it easier and safer to choose a bike for transportation, California will also support equitable economic growth and improved public health.

The emergence of electric bicycles is hugely beneficial to this goal and should be bolstered. Electric bikes enable people to take longer trips or trips over difficult terrain that otherwise would require a car. Parents can take their children to school on an e-bike. People with certain disabilities or whose bodies prevent them from easily using a regular bike can use an e-bike and experience unprecedented mobility.

Studies show that about half of e-bike trips replace car trips and that the average length of those trips is nine miles. About a quarter constitute trips that otherwise would not have been taken, i.e., providing mobility that had been previously inaccessible. Fewer than a quarter of e-bike trips would have been trips made on foot or by regular bike.

Unfortunately, the expense of an electric bike makes them inaccessible to low-income people and deters even middle-income people from buying an electric bike. The adoption rate of electric bikes in the U.S., as a proportion of the bicycle market, is a small fraction of the adoption rate in many other countries. Financial assistance is necessary at this stage to foster their adoption at the rate necessary to take advantage of their utility to help meet California's climate, air quality, and health goals.

We support the bill's explicit goals of reducing vehicle miles traveled, prioritizing individuals from low-income households, including funding for safety education and related programs, and protecting our neighborhood small businesses.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your "aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Dave Snyder, Executive Director
California Bicycle Coalition

Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy Manager
Safe Routes Partnership

Joey Juhasz-Lukomski, Executive Director
BikeVentura

Michael Schneider, Founder
Streets For All

David Diaz, MPH, Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Eris Weaver, Executive Director
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

Christy Zamani, Executive Director
Day One

John Jones III, President/CBO
East Side Riders Bike Club

Carolynn Johnson, West Coast Program Manager
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

Allis Druffel, IHM, Southern California Director
California Interfaith Power & Light

Maryann Aguirre, Project Director
People for Mobility Justice

Bryn Lindblad, Deputy Director
Climate Resolve

Andy Hanshaw, Executive Director
San Diego County Bicycle Coalition

Denny Zane, Executive Director
Move LA

Shiloh Ballard, Executive Director
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Liza Lutzker, Coordinating Committee
Walk Bike Berkeley

Eli Akira Kaufman, Executive Director
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Paul Rabinov, Board member
Walk Bike Glendale

Glenn Hammett, President
Bike Bakersfield

Anne Wallach Thomas, Executive Director
Shasta Living Streets

Dave "Poy" Poyourow, Board Member
Bikerowave Co-op, Los Angeles

Brian Wiedenmeier, Executive Director
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

Gina Gallino Cole, Executive Director
Bike Santa Cruz County

Heng Lam Foong, Director
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

Patrick Band
Napa County Bicycle Coalition

Peter Choi, Board Member
Bicycle Kitchen/La Bici-Cocina

Damian Kevitt, Executive Director
Streets Are For Everyone

Steve Dakin, Manager
San Jose Bike Clinic

Rick Ellison, Executive Director
Bike SLO County

Tarrell Kullaway, Executive Director
Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Carter Rubin, Mobility and Climate Advocate
Natural Resources Defence Council

Dave Campbell, Advocacy Director
Bike East Bay

Ruben Aronin, Senior Vice President
Better World Group

Marven Norman, Executive Director
Inland Empire Biking Alliance

Colin Bogart, Steering Committee
Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition

Kyle Heiskala, Board President
BikeSD

Deb Banks, Executive Director
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates

Elise Kalfayan, Steering Committee Member
Glendale Environmental Coalition

Julia Randolph, Policy and Outreach Associate
Coalition for Clean Air

Laura Cohen, Western Region Director
Rails to Trails Conservancy