



Memorandum of Support

S.314 (Salazar)/A.275 (Carroll)

Title: Relates to establishing a ride clean rebate program for electric assist bicycles.

Statement of Support: New York needs to rapidly decarbonize the transportation sector to meet its climate mandates and help mitigate the severe impacts of climate change. The transportation sector is our nation's largest contributor of climate-disrupting emissions and one of New York State's top contributors at nearly 1/3rd of New York's total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)¹. The landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates an 85% percent reduction in economy-wide GHG emissions by 2050 making deep reductions in the transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions critical to achieving the CLCPA's emissions mandates. This makes slashing vehicle emissions an essential part of meeting our climate goals. This can be done not only by driving electric, but also by driving less by using multiple modes of transportation including electric assist bicycles (e-bikes).

We need to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) while making sure public transit is reliable and our streets are safe for people to walk and bike on. At a fraction of the price, e-bikes are a powerful way to slash climate pollution while being far more accessible to most people than electric cars. In addition to being a cheaper purchase, they don't require liability insurance, a driver's license, a garage, a dedicated parking spot, or a multi-year loan and good credit. They enable cyclists of all levels to go faster and further than on a regular bike, and to improve their mental and physical health. For many e-bike owners, the bike unlocks a whole new world by allowing them to leave the car at home or not own a car at all, and instead enjoy getting exercise in the open air. However, unlike conventional bicycle costs, e-bike costs are one of the strongest barriers to adoption²

Incentivizing the purchase of e-bikes by making a rebate available to New Yorkers would kick start adoption making the purchase more realistic for everyday folks. Sierra Club urges New York to complete a Ride Clean Rebate Program for Electric Assist Bicycles.

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of [S314/A275](#).

¹ New York State Dep't of Environmental Conservation, 2022 Statewide GHG Emissions Report: Summary Report at tbl. ES-3 (2022), https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/ghgsumrpt22.pdf.

² Electric Assisted Bikes (E-bikes) Show Promise in Getting People out of Cars; April 2019 U Davis Policy Brief <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3mm040km#main>