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March 17, 2025

The Honorable Jon Koznick and Erin Koegel  
Co-Chairs, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Centennial Office Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chairs Koznick, Koegel, and Committee Members,

Fresh Energy is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with over 30 years of experience developing practical clean energy policies that benefit all Minnesotans and help us achieve an equitable net-zero carbon economy by 2050. We are writing today in opposition to the repeal of the electric-assisted bicycle rebate program proposed in House File 2066.

Electric-assisted bicycles have significant potential to help Minnesota achieve its carbon emissions reduction goals. Studies have shown that electric-assisted bicycles offset the emissions of their production by replacing just 100 miles driven in a conventional internal combustion engine automobile.<sup>1</sup>

This sustainable mode of transportation can also help certain segments of the population save money by avoiding the costs associated with car ownership, which account for on average 20% of household expenses.<sup>2</sup> With high interest rates making vehicle purchases increasingly unaffordable,<sup>3</sup> the rebate program for electric-assisted bicycles helps provide a transportation alternative that can help families live more affordably and sustainably.

Minnesota's 2024 rebate program unveiled strong demand for electric-assisted bicycles. The 2025 program could provide even more benefits by approving the changes proposed in House File 2249, such as a more equitable lottery system for disbursing the rebate. We encourage the committee to consider action on House File 2249 during the 2025 session.

Repealing the rebate program entirely would hinder the expansion of this affordable and sustainable technology at a time when providing alternative transportation options that help decarbonize our transportation system is most critical. For these reasons, we urge committee members to oppose House File 2066.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gazellebikes.com/en-gb/blog/are-e-bikes-really-eco-friendly>

<sup>2</sup> <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2024/03/25/study-how-car-ownership-is-keeping-americans-from-financial-stability>

<sup>3</sup> Id.

Sincerely,

Nick Haeg  
Senior Associate, Electric Vehicles  
Fresh Energy