



*March 3, 2020*

*The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224*

*Re: Support for Legalization of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters*

## Dear Governor Cuomo,

The undersigned groups write to thank you for advancing legislation to legalize electric bicycles and electric scooters in New York State as part of the Executive budget. Your ongoing leadership on transportation issues vital to the long-term growth of New York State gives us confidence that this measure will be enacted as soon as possible. We want to work with you and the Legislature to ensure that this legislation is included in the enacted budget.

As you know, there is increasing urgency to legalize e-bikes due to the unjust enforcement many hard-working delivery workers face. These delivery workers are often immigrants, who earn little money and for whom the speed and cost-efficiency of e-bikes is paramount as they work to make enough deliveries each day to eke out a living. Yet because the legal status of e-bikes is in doubt, these bikes are often confiscated by police and their riders ticketed, disrupting livelihoods and exposing people who have done nothing wrong to the criminal justice system, or worse, deportation. The longer this legislation goes unpassed, the more workers will be impacted.

This glaring issue coincides with a separate crisis. New York City's streets remain choked with traffic, contributing to climate change and the dual public health threats of poor air quality and traffic violence. The legalization of e-bikes and e-scooters--safe, environmentally-friendly modes of transportation that can make cities more livable and solve last-mile issues--could have a profound impact on addressing New York City's over-reliance on cars. Last year you took a bold and courageous step by leading the way on the nation's first congestion pricing plan. E-bikes and e-scooters can complement that plan perfectly – they are much safer than cars, are emissions free, and are small and easily storable, making them ideal for urban environments. Electric micromobility could prove integral to New York City as drivers will look to other options once congestion pricing takes effect.

At the same time, these devices help to bridge existing gaps in cities' public transportation networks. In cities across New York, many residents live far from the nearest public transportation option and instead of traveling on foot, they rely on for-hire vehicles, or personal cars, and forgo public transportation altogether. E-scooters have demonstrated success in closing the last mile and replacing car trips in cities where they are legal.

Thanks to your leadership, New York is doing more to address climate change than nearly any state in the country. Part of that effort must be focused on transportation as more than 35% of New York's greenhouse gas emissions come from this sector, making it the state's number one contributor to climate change. While electrification and other emissions-free technology is important for cars and trucks, we cannot meet the ambitious goals that we've set for ourselves without also reducing the total number of vehicle miles traveled. These new transportation options are already displacing private vehicle trips around the world, and can do the same in New York, complementing your strong record on transportation policy.

Micromobility is the future and we thank you for your determination to champion this issue through to completion as quickly as possible.

**Sincerely,**

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New York League of  
Conservation Voters

**Jessica Walker**

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