

Dear Representative Coffey, Vermont House Committee on Transportation Chair, and  
Senator Andrew Perchlik, Vermont Senate Committee on Transportation Acting Chair

As a bike and outdoor retailer in Montpelier, VT, we at Onion River Outdoors are writing to encourage the Vermont House and Senate Committees on Transportation to support allocating funds for the eBike incentive program. We appreciate the Legislature's previous commitment to supporting this program and hope that it will continue for the benefit of more Vermonters and contribute to the people-based vibrancy of our communities and downtowns.

EBikes are an excellent alternative transportation option for parents carting kids to and from school, play dates, and sporting events; folks looking to load up groceries and more easily tackle climbs back to neighborhoods up out of the downtown basin; and a viable transportation option for especially low- to moderate-income Vermonters who might not be able to afford car ownership or need more freedom than offered by public transit. Being a successful eBike retailer in Montpelier since 2017, we have seen incentives help make an eBike possible for customers who cannot otherwise afford this mobility option due to higher prices than traditional analog bikes. Whether purchasing a bike from us or another retailer, this incentive helps grow biking interests while reducing automobile congestion and increasing accessibility to more local customers. Ebikes are great for our communities, our air quality, and contribute to the reduced congestion, vitality, and accessibility of our downtowns—something especially important in this age of increased ease of at-home online shopping, which effectively reduces downtown business traffic.

As an employer of 20 and a pillar of downtown Montpelier, we hope that the Legislature replenishes the popular eBike incentive for this year and also commits to funding it for the year's considerable future. It's a win for economic development, equitable transportation, and environmental sustainability.

Please share our thoughts with your relevant committee members. If you have any questions, please contact us at [kip@onionriver.com](mailto:kip@onionriver.com) and [jen@onionriver.com](mailto:jen@onionriver.com) or 802-225-6736. Thank you for your work supporting Vermont's small businesses and making Vermont become more bike and pedestrian-friendly.

Sincerely,  
Kip and Jen Roberts  
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Montpelier, VT