



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Dave Min
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1271 – Electric Bikes, Powered Mobility Devices and Storage Batteries – SUPPORT
(As Amended June 11, 2024)**

Dear Senator Min,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, we are pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 1271, which would require personal mobility devices, such as e-bikes or electric scooters, powered by a lithium-ion battery sold in California to meet certain specified safety standards.

Personal mobility devices offer an economical, sustainable, and convenient alternative to cars, making them an increasingly popular choice among Californians. However, this surge in popularity has brought to light concerns about the potential speed and fire risks associated with these devices. Manufacturers have recently begun selling devices that allow for certain e-bikes to use a “turbo mode”, exceeding safe speeds for these devices. These devices are also typically made using lithium-ion batteries, which, if manufactured poorly or used incorrectly, can pose a fire safety risk. Evidence of the aforementioned safety issues has already been found around the country.

SB 1271 addresses these concerns by implementing essential safety measures. This bill will prohibit the sale or lease of powered mobility devices with lithium-ion batteries that have not been tested for safety and battery standards by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This is a crucial measure as improperly manufactured or uncertified batteries pose a significant fire risk. SB 1271 also mandates that manufacturers label the device or battery or provide documentation of certification at the time of sale, upon the buyer's request. This transparency ensures that consumers are informed on the safety of the products they are purchasing. This bill, additionally, aims to prevent devices from exceeding their classification limits by clarifying the definition of each e-bike class. This is vital to maintaining the safety of riders and pedestrians alike.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1271 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn'.

Keith Blackburn
Mayor

CC: Members and Staff, Assembly Transportation Committee
Tasha Boerner, Assembly District 77
Angela Pontes, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom's Office of Legislative Affairs