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August 20, 2026

Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky
Council District 5
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilwoman Heather Hutt
Council District 10
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Councilwoman Yaroslavsky and Honorable Councilwoman Hutt,

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) would like to request that you write a letter to the California Assembly and State Senate Transportation Committees expressing our opposition to AB-1557 as it creates an undue burden on riders and businesses.

Lowering maximum assisted speeds from 20 MPH down to 16 MPH makes e-biking significantly less practical for daily commutes, cargo carrying, and keeping up with suburban street traffic.

Capping assisted speeds at 16 MPH and motor output at 250 peak watts removes the performance needed for utility trips. This may be sufficient for lighter users, but falls short in providing heavier users with necessary assistance, especially in hillier corridors like Beverlywood or Cheviot Hills. Many individuals with mobility impairments, chronic joint pain, respiratory conditions, heart issues, or limb differences rely on higher-wattage motors so the bike carries the mechanical load, rather than forcing excessive strain on these individuals.

Furthermore, existing federal guidelines are sufficient and a standard of 750 watts of continuous power is necessary for accessibility due to terrain variation and rider ability. Slowing down or underpowering these bikes forces commuters back into single-occupancy vehicles, increasing overall Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Restricting standard e-bike utility runs counter to Los Angeles's Mobility Plan 2035 and California's VMT reduction mandates.

AB-1557 penalizes law-abiding riders rather than targeting non-compliant, un-governed "e-motos" and illegal grey-market speed bikes, which represent the actual safety concern on streets and sidewalks.

Deviating to a California-only standard (250W continuous / 16 MPH) breaks uniform vehicle classification across state lines, creating complications for consumers and businesses. It also may result in expensive California-only product lines.

We thank you in advance for encouraging the California Assembly and State Senate to stand in opposition to this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Lynn
President
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council