

JACKIE DINGFELDER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 23



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

March 25, 2013

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for holding a hearing today on Senate Bill 756, the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Bill, and providing me the opportunity to offer my support.

Many bicyclists in Oregon also own vehicles yet choose to ride their bike to commute, for recreation, and more. Proposals in recent years would tax bicycle purchases or otherwise implement mandatory fees. Taxes on bikes are a challenging proposal because Oregon does not have an infrastructure in place to collect sales taxes.

Senate Bill 756 would simply create a voluntary check off system so when vehicle owners register or renew their registration they can opt to pay an additional fee to support Oregon's Scenic Bikeways.

The positive consequences of biking as a healthy mode of transportation, or as a purely recreational activity, span across many aspects of our lives. They can be expressed in terms of the health of the environment, as well as the health of individuals who are more physically active. A transportation system that is conducive to bicycling can reap many benefits in terms of reduced traffic congestion and improved quality of life. Economic rewards both to the individual and to society are also realized.

The Scenic Bikeway program is a partnership between Cycle Oregon, Travel Oregon, Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Parks and Recreation. Designated Bikeways are selected from locally proposed routes and represent the "best of the best" road bicycle riding in Oregon. Every type of rider can find the ride that fits their style and mood- from family friendly to remote and challenging.

Colleagues, this is a bill to help fund bike infrastructure in Oregon. The idea comes from cyclists and is supported by cyclists. It would be fully paid by cyclists and others who choose to support this type of infrastructure. I would urge you support Senate Bill 756.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Dingfelder".

Senator Jackie Dingfelder