

I'm writing today to ask that the House Committee Transportation and Economic Development not advance HB 3255.

ORS 815.280 already requires lights and reflectors on bicycles when they're ridden after dark, and this bill is onerous and unfair in singling out bicyclists over pedestrians, electric bikes, moped drivers; even people in dark cars, and will do little to affect the number of crashes between cars and bikes.

I have a friend I call Mr. Reflector. His bicycle is his main form of transportation, and he has reflective and light emitting material from front to back, and even on his person. In fact, his helmet has neon tube-like framing that makes him look like a player from the movie Tron.

Mr. Reflector has been hit by a car 5 times. Not because he couldn't be seen, but because his behavior was pedestrian in nature, being struck 3 of those times while using the crosswalk coming from an unexpected direction and pace.

As a bicycling coach and instructor with the League of American Bicyclists for 15 years, I've conveyed to my students and instructor candidates that a cyclist can't be "too visible". That even being a Mr. Reflector won't guarantee you will not be involved in a crash. As I tell them, "You can be all lit up, and have a flashing neon sign hovering above you with the words, 'Cyclist here' and **someone will not see you.**" (emphasis mine).

The language of this bill is ambiguous in that it doesn't describe what types/colors/distance-to-be-seen characteristics of reflective material that will be required.

Finally, a heavy handed fine of \$250 is especially onerous, as many folks who would most likely be in violation of this law, should it pass, cannot afford a \$250 bike, let alone similar costs for a coat or jacket as described in this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and forwarding it on to those representatives on the committee.

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