

My name is Kat Iverson. I have bicycled for decades. I use a good headlight and a good taillight at night, and I have always found them to be sufficient for both seeing and being seen. I do not support HB 3255, nor can I think of any amendment that would make the bill supportable.

This bill requires cyclists to have extra reflectors not required of other road users, e.g. operators of motorcycles, mopeds, electric bicycles, EPAMDs, or dark colored cars. The bill does not specify the type, surface area, or direction of said reflectors. In fact the bill doesn't actually require that the reflective clothing be visible at all. Wearing a reflective coat or vest seems to comply with this bill even if that clothing is covered by, say, a rain poncho or a backpack, or do you want to ban ponchos and backpacks?

Not only does it require clothing with some undefined reflective property, it specifies that the clothing be either a coat or a vest.

Additional reflective clothing is allowed but wearing a reflective bike jersey without a reflective coat or vest does not comply with this bill.

An existing statute (ORS 815.280) already requires that nighttime cyclists have a headlight visible 500 feet to the front, and a taillight or reflector visible 600 feet to the rear. Any cyclists who are hard to see at night aren't complying with the existing lighting statute, and adding a new visibility statute won't make such scofflaws more visible.

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