

*Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization, I am writing to ask you to amend the policy language on HB 2017-3 regarding a bicycle sales tax.*

*Safe facilities for bicycling and walking are critical in Oregon communities. Such investments belong in a balanced transportation funding package. The 3% bicycle tax currently proposed is not the path to funding these improvements. Everyone in our communities benefits from these investments in safe and healthy communities, so the tax burden should be shared more broadly. As currently written, this bill will have a negative impact on small Oregon businesses and on Oregonians choosing to travel in ways that improve health and ease congestion.*

*I'd like to suggest a 0.5% tax on all new sport utility vehicles and trucks sold in Oregon. The small incremental cost increase would barely be noticeable to the vehicle purchaser, but would generate much more revenue for these programs than would be raised by taxing bicycles.*

*Please remove the bicycle sales tax from HB 2017, and maintain new funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities through a more broad-based, low tax.*

*Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.*

*Thank you,*

*Joe Partridge*

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