

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.

I own a small business in the bicycle industry and this will hurt my business. An industry that has already been hit hard by the effects of online sales. We should not be taxing activities or businesses that support healthy, vibrant communities and reduce congestion on roadways. I, and other bicycle riding people, already pay disproportionately more for highways and freeways that impact our communities negatively with pollution and noise. Oregon should not be taxing healthy activities while continuing to invest hundreds of millions on short sited, Automotive congestion relief projects. I already pay my fair share in transportation taxes and get crumbs in investment for the transportation mode I and my clients use the most.

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 way that improves health and eases congestion.

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.

Warm regards,

Aaron



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