

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and committee members:

I have just returned from three weeks in Sweden, which has an amazingly modern and clean transportation system. Roads are uncrowded, because people mostly get around by train, bus, bicycle, or scooter, or on foot. Dedicated pedestrian-bicycle paths go seemingly everywhere, so people are seldom subject to automobiles' fumes, noise, and danger to life and limb. Rental bikes and scooters are available all over cities. Bicycle pumping stations are widespread, as are charging stations for electric cars. Trains run fast and on time. Some city buses are electric; others run on biogas from the municipal composting facility or on biodiesel. The country is phasing out fossil fuels. The air is clean. My husband and I were serenaded by birds wherever we went.

Why can't Oregon be like Sweden? Couldn't we aim for at least a quarter of Sweden's progress? I don't care how the legislature raises the needed revenue. Just do it, please, and give us all a state more fit to live in.

Linda Ziedrich
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