

Submitter: Theo Hathaway Saner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4007

Written Testimony in Support of HB 4007

House Committee on Transportation

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Theo Hathaway Saner, and I am writing in strong support of HB 4007, the Safe Rides bill.

I support HB 4007 because clear, consistent rules around e-bikes, scooters, and other micromobility devices are long overdue in Oregon. Micromobility is already a daily part of how people get to work, school, appointments, and essential services, yet our rules have not kept pace with how these devices are being used or sold.

Like many Oregonians, I see micromobility devices used across a wide range of ages and abilities. Without uniform statewide standards, riders, parents, retailers, and even law enforcement are left guessing about what devices are legal, safe, and appropriate—especially for young riders. HB 4007 provides clarity where confusion currently puts people at risk.

This bill improves safety by:

Establishing clear classifications and speed limits for e-bikes and e-scooters

Requiring helmets for riders under 16

Setting a reasonable minimum age of 14 for Class 1 e-bikes and e-scooters that reach up to 20 mph

These commonsense standards help protect young riders while preserving access to low-cost, low-emission transportation for people who rely on it.

HB 4007 also addresses a growing safety concern: the sale of high-speed devices and unsafe batteries being marketed as “e-bikes.” By prohibiting the sale of devices exceeding 28 mph (or 20 mph with a throttle) under the e-bike label, and requiring battery and charger certification, the bill helps prevent crashes, fires, and consumer confusion. Families deserve to know that the devices they purchase are safe and legal.

Importantly, this bill does not discourage micromobility—it strengthens it. By creating clear and enforceable rules, HB 4007 makes streets safer for riders, pedestrians, and drivers alike, and supports a transportation future that is more affordable, accessible, and sustainable.

I urge the Committee to support HB 4007 and help Oregon move forward with smart, safety-focused micromobility policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Theo Hathaway Saner
Portland OR