

Submitter: Austin Schock

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4007

My name is Austin Schock. I am primarily a commuter by bicycle. I have been since I was a teenager, and one thing I do believe is that it is the responsibility of the cyclist to ride in a manner that maximizes public safety. I always wear bright clothes and have plenty of lights (so that it's definitely the driver's fault if I get hit) and on park trails I maintain a slow speed and will even get off and walk for the wellbeing of pedestrians. All of that is to say that I do have good standing to address this issue.

A bicycle that you do not need to pedal is not a bike. It is a small motorcycle, and a dangerous one at that. Currently, these things are treated as bicycles, which leads to dangerous situations on our walking trails and on our streets. They besmirch the good name of conscientious cyclists such as myself, and encourage detrimental habits in their users. In short, this misclassification is beginning to cause problems, and the Oregon legislature has time to fix the error before it becomes a part of our culture.

I encourage the legislative branch of our government to bring this matter to a vote. It might seem nannying to some, but so did seatbelts at one point. Properly defining a thing allows us to better understand it, and understand its place in our society. Please, create a category for "powered micromobility devices," and let the conversations bloom.