

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am writing as president of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail to express strong opposition to HB 1703, which would impose a mandatory annual \$50 registration fee on every bicycle in New Hampshire. This proposal would create an unnecessary financial barrier to one of the most affordable, healthy, and environmentally responsible forms of transportation and recreation available to our residents.

Bicycling is a cornerstone of New Hampshire's outdoor culture. Families, commuters, seniors, and visitors rely on bikes because they are accessible and low-cost. A \$50 per-bike annual fee would disproportionately burden low-income households, children, and anyone who owns more than one bicycle. Many families maintain multiple bikes for recreation, commuting, and seasonal use; under this bill, they could face hundreds of dollars in new yearly costs simply to enjoy an activity that has always been free.

This fee would also undermine the economic benefits that cycling brings to our state. Trails, bike shops, local businesses, and tourism all depend on keeping cycling affordable and inviting. Communities across New Hampshire—including those along the Northern Rail Trail—have invested countless volunteer hours and private donations to expand access, improve safety, and encourage more people to get outside. HB 1703 would work directly against those efforts.

Cyclists already contribute to the New Hampshire economy through tourism spending, property taxes, and general fund revenues. Moreover, bicycles cause negligible wear on roads compared to motor vehicles. Creating a new bureaucracy to register and track every bicycle in the state would likely cost more to administer than it generates.

New Hampshire should be encouraging healthy, low-impact transportation—not penalizing it. HB 1703 sends the wrong message at the wrong time.

I respectfully urge the committee to vote against HB 1703 and to continue supporting policies that strengthen, rather than restrict, outdoor recreation and active transportation in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Donald Moyer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donald Moyer".

President, Friends of the Northern Rail Trail