

I am writing to oppose New Hampshire HB-1703, which establishes a mandatory \$50 registration fee for all bicycles using state or municipally funded bike paths, trails, or roadways. In an administration that is supposedly opposed to new taxes, this is a tax disguised as a fee.

I work at the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter. A bicycle is one of the few forms of transportation that is almost free, once the bicycle has been purchased. Bicycles provide transportation for many of our homeless clients, as well as for other people who are struggling economically and eat here and use our pantry services. Forcing people who are already struggling to pay a fee for something that has been free seems draconian. And a \$100 violation fee is totally unreasonable.

One of our community partners is the Gate City Bike Co-Op, and our clients are some of the people who have benefited from their largess. I also personally know people who are NOT clients who have received bikes that they could not otherwise afford from Gate City Bike Co-op. The Co-Op has given away thousands of bicycles to people in the greater Nashua community since they started in 2018. These bikes go to people in need, whose lives are in transition. If these folks cannot afford a bike, how are they going to pay a \$50 registration fee?

You are also punishing people who use bicycles to get a minor workout while doing errands; people who use bikes to avoid increasing their carbon footprint; and kids. In a society where we are already concerned about childhood obesity, charging their parents \$50 to register a bike is absurd. And \$50 is a hefty fee in a time when NH residents are already stretched to the max. Are you going to collect this from every child who has a bike? And charge them \$100 for every violation? I think this is a terrible idea.

This poorly thought out bill must not pass.