

## **Opposition Letter to New Hampshire HB1703**

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To the Honorable Members of the New Hampshire House Transportation Committee:

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to HB1703, the proposal to establish a mandatory annual registration fee for all bicycles and electric bicycles operated on state or municipally funded paths, trails, and roadways.

While I understand the intent to generate revenue for bicycle infrastructure, this bill raises several concerns that I urge the committee to consider:

### **1. HB1703 Creates Barriers to Low-Cost, Sustainable Transportation**

Bicycles and e-bikes are among the most affordable, environmentally friendly transportation options available. Imposing registration fees—especially on individuals who rely on bicycles for commuting, recreation, or economic necessity—risks discouraging their use. This runs counter to statewide goals of reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and promoting public health.

### **2. Enforcement Would Be Costly and Impractical**

Requiring registration for every bicycle and e-bike introduces a significant administrative burden. Enforcing compliance across thousands of bikes—many of which are inexpensive, privately owned, or used by children—would likely cost more than the revenue generated. This raises questions about the bill's overall efficiency and feasibility.

### **3. The Bill Could Negatively Impact Tourism and Outdoor Recreation**

New Hampshire's trail networks and bike-friendly communities attract visitors from across New England. A registration requirement may deter tourists who bring their bicycles or rent them locally, potentially harming small businesses and reducing outdoor recreation revenue.

### **4. Existing Funding Mechanisms Already Support Bicycle Infrastructure**

The state already invests in multimodal transportation through federal grants, local initiatives, and partnerships. Rather than creating a new fee system, strengthening these existing channels may be a more effective and less burdensome approach.

## 5. The Policy Disproportionately Affects Children and Families

Because the bill applies to *all* bicycles, it would require families to register children's bikes as well. This adds unnecessary cost and bureaucracy to an activity that should remain simple, healthy, and accessible for young people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote **Inexpedient to Legislate** on HB1703. New Hampshire should continue encouraging cycling—not creating financial and administrative barriers that discourage it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Bisson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christian Bisson