

Name: Jacob Robertson

Location: Keene, NH

Bill: HB1703

Position: Oppose

While the intent of HB1703 to create and maintain cycling infrastructure may seem well placed, the bill falls short in several respects:

- First, this bill would put an undue burden on families that are simply trying to enjoy a fun and healthy activity together. For example, a family of four with four bikes would pay \$200 per year in additional taxes on their bikes. This would have the effect of discouraging parents from buying bikes for them and their children.
- The proposed registration fees and penalties would discourage bicycling, undermining public health, quality of life, and tourism. We can all agree that activities that encourage our citizens to be outside and active are a benefit to our population. We should be doing all we can to make New Hampshire an attractive place in which to live and travel to.
- Our state relies on tourism to help fuel our economy and provide much needed revenue. This bill would make New Hampshire far less bike-friendly, harming the state's tourism economy. We are surrounded by states that would become more attractive to prospective tourism.
- This bill would disproportionately affect people who rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation, especially those with limited incomes. In these times, many of our fellow citizens are struggling financially. It is important that our legislator does not cause further financial distress for those who may be struggling the most.
- The cost of implementing the proposed registration program may exceed the revenue it generates. The fiscal note states that revenues cannot be determined. It would be irresponsible to enact a program that we can't be sure wouldn't cost the state more than it brings in.
- Enforcement of the proposed bicycle registrations would put an undue burden on members of law enforcement who are already stretched too thin. These officials' time would be put to better use by enforcing the law we already have on the books, not by creating more constraints on their precious time.

A major reason why there is a need for better cycling/pedestrian infrastructure on our roads is due to the potential dangers posed by vehicle drivers. With the continuing rise in speed driven and increased distractions to drivers, our population has become less safe when sharing space with vehicles. It would be a better use of resources to continue to encourage awareness and enforcement of traffic laws, not by mandating that citizens pay more to ensure their own safety.