

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1703 TO REQUIRE BIKE REGISTRATION.

SUBMITTED BY COREY BELOBROW, 24 WESTBOURNE ROAD, CONCORD N.H. 03301.

Although I hope to be present at the hearing on January 27 to observe the hearing, and testify if necessary, I am submitting the following comments in opposition to HB 1703. It makes no sense to require registration for bicycles, which have been a great form of free recreation for more than one hundred years. Here are some of my reasons:

- 1 SO MUCH FOR LIVE FREE OR DIE. THIS BILL IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THAT.
- 2 I HAVE BEEN RIDING BIKES WITHOUT PAYING A GOVERNMENT REGISTRATION FEE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS. I HAVE RIDDEN FOR FREE IN NEW YORK, MASSACHUSETTS, FLORIDA, WASHINGTON DC, VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, ARIZONA AND PROBABLY A FEW OTHER PLACES. I HAVE ALSO BEEN RIDING MY BIKE FOR FREE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS. IT IS ABSURD TO MAKE ME PAY TO RIDE MY BIKE HERE.
- 3 IT MAKES NO SENSE TO STOP REQUIRING MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS BUT START REGISTERING BICYCLES
- 4 CREATING THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO ISSUE BIKE REGISTRATIONS AND HIRING PEOPLE TO HANDLE THE REGISTRATIONS WILL LIKELY COST MORE THAN YOU ARE LIKELY TO COLLECT IN FEES. EVEN IF THE STATE CAN MAKE SOME MONEY OFF THIS THE NET AMOUNT WILL BE MINIMAL
- 5 ONE OF MY BIKES THAT I STILL RIDE IS 20 YEARS OLD. DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FIND PAPERWORK TO PROVE THAT I BOUGHT IT AND OWN IT? THAT IS ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS BILL (PROOF OF OWNERSHIP)
- 6 I HAVE TWO BIKES, ONE FOR ROAD AND ONE FOR GRAVEL. MY WIFE HAS TWO BIKES FOR THE SAME REASON. DO YOU EXPECT US TO PAY \$200 EACH YEAR TO RIDE BIKES AROUND NH? AND IF I AM ABLE TO RIDE BIKES FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS, TO PAY \$1,000?
- 7 BIKE RIDING IS CLEAN AND HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY. WHY WOULD YOU DISCOURAGE IT? YOU DO REALIZE THAT FEES LIKE THIS WILL DISCOURAGE RIDING, CORRECT?
- 8 WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CHARGE OUT OF STATE VISITORS TO RIDE A BIKE IN NH?
- 9 IF THE STATE NEEDS MORE MONEY – AT THE RATE OF \$50 PER BIKE – WHY DID IT REPEAL THE INCOME AND DIVIDENDS TAX? IS THAT THE REAL PROBLEM HERE – THAT YOU GAVE WEALTHY PEOPLE A TAX BREAK AND ARE NOW TRYING TO NICKEL AND DIME KIDS, FAMILIES AND HEALTHY PEOPLE TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE?