



January 27, 2026

The Honorable Rep. Thomas Walsh, Chair
House Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
33 N State Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Opposition to HB1703-FN – Bicycle Registration Fee

Chair Walsh and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the Granite Outdoor Alliance (GOA), a statewide coalition of over 130 outdoor recreation businesses and organizations, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to HB1703-FN, relative to establishing a registration fee for bicycles and electric bicycles.

GOA believes HB1703-FN is an ill-conceived proposal that fails to adequately consider its broader economic, social, and practical consequences for New Hampshire. While the bill appears to be framed as a funding mechanism for bicycle infrastructure, its stated objectives are unclear, and its downstream impacts are significant and negative.

1. **The bill does not clearly articulate the problem it is attempting to solve.** There is no demonstrated need for a universal bicycle registration system, nor evidence that such a system would meaningfully improve safety, access, or infrastructure outcomes. The fiscal note itself acknowledges uncertainty regarding revenue generation, raising serious questions about whether the program would even achieve its stated funding purpose
2. **Enforcement mechanisms are not thoughtfully addressed.** Beyond establishing penalties, the bill does not explain how compliance would be tracked, how enforcement would be implemented, or which agencies would bear responsibility. This lack of clarity raises concerns about administrative burden, cost overruns, and uneven enforcement across municipalities and user groups.
3. **HB1703-FN would have adverse economic impacts on New Hampshire.** Most critically, bicycling is a cornerstone of the state's outdoor recreation economy, supporting retailers, manufacturers, guides, event organizers, tourism operators, and local communities. A \$50 annual registration fee per bicycle (paired with penalties for noncompliance) would discourage participation, reduce bike purchases, and undermine New Hampshire's reputation as a welcoming, bike-friendly destination. For families,



workers who rely on bicycles for transportation, and visitors, the cost and complexity introduced by this bill would be a meaningful deterrent.

From a tourism and economic development perspective, an approach that is perceived as anti-bike would be particularly damaging. New Hampshire competes regionally for visitors, talent, and outdoor businesses. Policies that discourage low-impact, health-positive recreation run counter to the state's economic interests and quality-of-life goals.

4. **The bill fails to account for affordability and equity.** For many residents, bicycling is not a luxury but a primary mode of transportation. Imposing a flat registration fee disproportionately affects lower-income individuals and families, while offering no clear assurances that the benefits would outweigh the costs.
5. **The Proposed Registration Fee Functions as a Tax on Bicycling.** While so-called “pay to play” models can work in limited and carefully designed contexts, this proposal functions in practice as a tax on bicycling. In a “Live Free or Die” state, new user taxes demand a clear public purpose, thoughtful design, and a demonstrable benefit that outweighs the burden imposed. HB1703-FN does not meet that standard: it imposes a flat, regressive cost on a low-impact activity without clear justification, implementation planning, or assurance of meaningful outcomes. Even if such a tax could be conceived in a careful and targeted way, this bill is not that effort.

For these reasons, Granite Outdoor Alliance strongly opposes HB1703-FN and urges the Committee to reject the bill. We encourage the Legislature to instead pursue collaborative, well-studied approaches to funding and expanding bicycle infrastructure that advance public health, tourism, and economic growth without discouraging participation in outdoor recreation. GOA stands ready to engage constructively with policymakers and stakeholders to help develop solutions that reflect New Hampshire's values and economic conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler T. Ray".

Tyler T. Ray
Director, Granite Outdoor Alliance