

Mary Jane Shows

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 12:06 PM
To: Mary Jane Shows
Subject: FW: HB57

From: Kenn Barnett [<mailto:cd2wellness@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB57

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton,

Thank you for introducing HB57! I greatly appreciate your interest in creating bicyclist-friendly programs and improving bike safety statewide. Not only can HB57 help Alaskans cut down on their fuel costs when we commute less by car, but the state will save money via less wear-and-tear on public infrastructure. There is a potential for an even greater benefit to bicycle travel and that would be the health aspect. With recent announcements on the number of sedentary, over weight and even obese residents of all ages in Anchorage and the state, anything we can do to encourage activity is a win for all. This bill will encourage Alaskans to commute by bike because of increased knowledge on the safe and effective use of their bike.

Thanks again for your work in introducing this fantastic bill and please let me know what I can do to support it in the future.

Sincerely,
Kenn Barnett
Anchorage, AK 99507

I want to write in support of HB57 a bill establishing a grant program to fund public bike share for Alaskan communities.

Shared bike programs are relatively new throughout the world and have generally been successful. HB57 would allow Alaskan communities to among the first in the world to have some exciting new developments for commuting bikes. A couple of examples; a new company named Breezer bikes makes a bike specifically designed to be a no-frills, durable and low-maintenance yet of good quality and specifically designed for commuting. Here is an article and their website:

http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/4271520?click=main_sr

<http://www.breezerbikes.com/>

A truly revolutionary system is on the horizon as well. It uses the ever-increasing abilities of cell phones and GPS to administer a public bike sharing program. This is, it would be possible for a subscriber to walk up to a locked public share bike, unlock the bike with the cell phone, ride to your destination, lock the bike and walk away and not worry about returning it to a central location. New York city is going to implement it.

Company website:

www.socialbicycles.com

HB57 would provide the funding necessary to make use of these kinds of new technologies and potentially change the face of transportation in communities throughout Alaska.

You can bet if this bill passes I will be active in my community deploying these new technologies. I strongly urge the passage of HB57.

Thank you, Ryan Kennedy