



Representative Laddie Shaw
House State Affairs Committee
33rd Alaska State Legislature
Cc: Rep. Ashley Carrick

Feb. 2, 2023

Re: Support for House Bill 8 ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLES

Hello Representative Shaw, Honorable Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

The Alaska Outdoor Alliance offers our full support for House Bill 8 regarding electric-assisted bicycles.

The Alaska Outdoor Alliance is the voice of our state's \$2.2 billion outdoor recreation economic cluster. According to an article in Bicycle Retailer and Industry News, ebike sales have grown 300 percent in the past five years making them the fastest growing segment of the bicycle industry. More and more bike retailers are saying, "ebikes are our future."

On average, the need for bike infrastructure ranked among the top 5 needs public land managers say they have heard from the public. Local, state and federal land managers were surveyed on a host of topics during development of Alaska's new five-year Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2027.

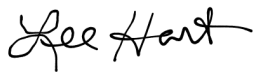
As demand for bike-accessible trails and consumer interest grows, HB 8 will help this economic sector grow by defining electric-assisted bicycles ("ebike") in statute. It adds ebikes to the list of modes of transportation that do not have to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. It also separates ebikes from an electric personal motor vehicle. Finally, it separates ebikes from a motor-driven cycle which includes motorcycle, motor scooter and motorized bicycle.

We also ask that the bill sponsor or committee consider adding language defining the three types of ebike categories, specifically:

- “Class 1 electric-assisted bicycle” means an electric-assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- “Class 2 electric-assisted bicycle” means an electric-assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.
- “Class 3 electric bicycle” means an electric-assisted bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour. AOA recommends language in this bill be amended to prohibit Class 3 ebikes on non-motorized facilities.

This classification will help federal, state, and local land managers and transportation planners better plan trail systems and enable the cycling public to more easily understand where they can ride their e-bike.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lee" and last name "Hart" clearly distinguishable.

Lee Hart
Alaska Outdoor Alliance
303.898.4141