



Senator James Kaufman  
33rd Alaska State Legislature  
Cc: Rep. Ashley Carrick

Re: Support for Senate Bill 62 ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLES

Feb. 20, 2023

Hello Senator Kaufman and Honorable Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

The Alaska Outdoor Alliance offers our full support for Senate Bill 62 and the proposed three-tiered classification system for 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. 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,

Lee Hart  
Alaska Outdoor Alliance  
303.898.4141