

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Marc Grober [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:35 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: SB62

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Scott,

Could you share to me a copy of the legal opinion you obtained from Legislative Counsel on the impact of adopting a bill that puts vehicles outside the definition established pre-emptively by the federal government to protect the public from 750 and greater watt vehicles on federal funding for trails that precludes such usage?

And do you have battery and motor data for the constituents you are trying to protect so that we can clearly recognize that they would all still be unlawful under your bill (and then what would your solution be regarding ensuring that they then were not viewed as e-bikes.

Thanks,

Marc

"We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do." – Mahatma Gandhi



peopleforbikes

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April 26, 2023

The Honorable Senator Scott Kawasaki and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee

RE: Please Help Champion House Bill 8 Into Law

Dear Chairman Kawasaki and esteemed members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition to express our support for House Bill 8, which seeks to modernize the definitions of electric bicycles in Alaska through the adoption of the nationally accepted three-class system.

As the national advocacy group for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding, PeopleForBikes Coalition represents over 1.4 million riders in the U.S. and over 320 manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors of bicycle products. Our organization has been at the forefront of national efforts to modernize and standardize electric bicycle regulation, educate users, and improve research.

Currently, 40 states have adopted the three-class model legislation for electric bicycles within their Vehicle and Traffic Laws. This model excludes low-speed electric bicycles from the definition of motorized vehicles and regulates electric bicycles more similarly to traditional bicycles. The purpose of this legislation is to provide clear rules for consumers, small businesses, and local governments to understand how electric bicycles must be equipped and operated, and clear enforcement guidelines for public safety officials to follow.

By adopting the three-class system, Alaska would align itself with the rest of the country and provide clarity to consumers as to where they can ride. Electric bicycles are an excellent way to keep people riding, decongest urban centers, and improve the mental and physical health of riders. They are enjoyed by people from all walks of life and are being widely adopted by Americans of all age groups.

Electric bicycles travel at similar speeds to bicycles and should not be regulated like high-power motor devices such as mopeds and motorcycles. Electric bicycles look, are equipped, and ride just like traditional bicycles and simply give riders – regardless of age, or physical, or cognitive ability – an extra boost when riding.

We urge you to support House Bill 8, which will help to promote the adoption of electric bicycles for all of Alaska's residents. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ashley Seaward
Director of State + Local Policy
PeopleForBikes Coalition