

SB

327

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

## First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/13/04

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/19/04  
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 2/27/04

State Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 327

### SB 327 ROLLERBLADERS REGULATED LIKE BICYCLES

"An Act relating to pedestrians using rollerblades, roller skates, and similar devices."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS SB 327 (STA)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>Senate Bill:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<b>House Bill:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DPS	2/25/04			✓	1

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	✓			
	✓			
			✓	
CHAIR:	X			

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: SB327-DPS-AST-2-25-04  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 Title Act Relating to Rollerblades RDU Alaska State Troopers  
 Component AST Detachments

Sponsor Sen. Seekins  
 Requester (S) State Affairs Component No. 2325

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2004) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2005 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SB 327 will amended AS 28.05.011 (a) to require that the Commissioner of Public Safety develop regulations allowing pedestrians using wheeled adjuncts, such as rollerblades, roller skates, and rollerskis, to use roadways and vehicular ways or areas available for use by bicycles. These regulations must include requirements that these pedestrians obey traffic laws, limit activities to daylight hours, wear an appropriate helmet and bright clothing, proceed in single file except when passing, complete all passing maneuvers expeditiously, not use any electronic devices that can inhibit hearing, and stay to the far right and restrict movement when passing by a motor vehicle.

The department does not anticipate the need for additional resources if this bill passes. The required regulation project can be handled using existing resources.

Prepared by: Lt. Al Storey Phone 269-4532  
 Division Alaska State Troopers Date/Time 2/25/04 10:50 AM  
 Approved by: Commissioner William Tandeske Date 2/23/2004  
 Agency Department of Public Safety

# ALASKA STATE SENATE



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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161  
Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

**Senator Ralph Seekins**  
District D

## **Senate Bill 327 Sponsor Statement**

**“An Act relating to pedestrians using rollerblades, roller skates, and similar devices.”**

For many years roller-skiers' legal use of public roadways was, more or less, taken for granted. This assumption was successfully challenged in the Fairbanks area last fall. Senate Bill 327 seeks to remedy this situation by specifically allowing the use of particular wheeled devices on those public roadways also available to bicyclists. It also recommends a set of safety standards for the use of these devices.

Alaska is home to some of the best international, national, collegiate, and junior cross-country skiers on the planet. In fact, seven of the ten Alaskans competing in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City were cross-country skiers. Imagine that. *Seven* Olympic cross-country skiers from such a small state as ours! This speaks volumes not only about our skiers' work ethic but also their training opportunities.

The natural preference of many of these world-class athletes would, no doubt, have Alaska covered in snow year-round. Since this is not a reasonable near-term possibility, the use of wheeled skis to imitate snow skiing has grown to become an effective training tool for use during non-winter months. What's more, Alaska is becoming well known nationally and internationally as a favored summer-time training site.

For these reasons, it is the intent of the proposed legislation to accommodate this seasonal use of some of our roadways. In fact, other northern locales — such as Norway, Sweden and Canada — have, for many years, supported the efforts of their cross-country athletes with similar provisions. Furthermore, the proposed legislation borrows heavily from Cross Country Canada's policy respecting the use of roller-skis on public roads.

Senate Bill 327 seeks to accommodate this important training activity by utilizing safe and reasonable methods for sharing roadway surfaces with motorized vehicles. It has garnered a groundswell of support throughout the cross-country community ranging from Alaska's Interior region to Southcentral to the Kenai Peninsula.

The 2006 Winter Olympic games are just around the corner. Would it be too much to expect seven (or more) of our cross-country skiers to make the trip to Torino, Italy? Of course not! In fact, a little courtesy and common sense combined with a small statutory revision can help make it happen.

# Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

## Rollerskiers ticketed

By TIM MOWRY  
Staff Writer

Saturday, October 04, 2003 - Life for Fairbanks rollerskiers took a sharp U-turn last weekend when Alaska State Troopers issued a ticket to a rollerskier for obstructing traffic one day and then ordered the University of Alaska Fairbanks cross-country ski team to halt its workout on the road the next.

While troopers say the two incidents are not related, they have opened a can of ice worms in Fairbanks, a big-time Nordic ski town where rollerskiers on roads are as common as bicycles in September and October before the snow flies.

"People are rollerskiing on roads all over the country and I've never heard of anything like this," said UAF ski coach Bill McDonnell, who came to Fairbanks from Vermont five years ago. "It's kind of disconcerting, especially when Fairbanks is such a skiing community."

It marked the first time anyone can remember a rollerskier getting a ticket.

"In the 19 years I've been rollerskiing in Fairbanks I've been passed numerous times by troopers or Fairbanks police and not once have I been stopped," said Ken Leary, a 45-year-old elementary school teacher who troopers ticketed on Saturday.

Troopers allege that Leary, who was rollerskiing along Chena Ridge Road with Mike Kramer, swung his ski pole at a passing car. That car just happened to be driven by Capt. Greg Tanner, detachment commander for Alaska State Troopers in Fairbanks, who was off duty at the time.

Leary claims Tanner came close to hitting him and the two exchanged heated words when Tanner pulled over after passing the two skiers.

While Tanner claims he identified himself as a trooper and asked the two skiers to stop when they went by, Leary and Kramer say they did not hear Tanner do so and figured he was just an angry motorist yelling at them.

After the confrontation, Tanner followed the two skiers for more than 20 minutes until an on-duty trooper, whom Tanner had called, showed up on Cripple Creek Road to issue Leary a ticket.

On Sunday, three troopers ordered 11 members of the Nanooks ski team to remove their rollerskis during a workout on Cripple Creek Road. Troopers said they had received complaints from local residents.

Seven of the skiers were given rides back to a school van and four others were told to walk back to the vehicle.

Cripple Creek Road is about 5 miles south of Fairbanks and has become a hot spot for rollerskiers because it is freshly paved. Troopers said Sunday's incident was prompted by calls from concerned residents in the area, not any kind of confrontation from the previous day.

"When somebody calls and says somebody is going to get killed, we respond to that," said trooper Gary Tellep, one of the three troopers who showed up Sunday. "The idea is to prevent people from getting hurt."

In essence, troopers are enforcing a law they said has been on the books for years but has been ignored. According to troopers, rollerskiing is illegal on a public road.

"The statute pretty clearly says you can't rollerski on the highway," said Tanner.

The law Tanner is referring to is Alaska Administrative Code AAC 02.395 (e), which says, "No person may operate a unicycle, coaster, roller skates or a similar device on the roadway."

A rollerski falls into the "similar device" category, Tanner said.

That's news to skiing folks like John Estle, the former UAF and U.S. Ski Team coach who has lived and coached in Fairbanks for three decades.

"This is a brand new interpretation (of the law)," Estle said. "People have been rollerskling in Fairbanks for more than 20 years without a problem. I don't understand why it's become such a problem all of a sudden."

The problem, as Tanner saw it on Saturday, was a safety issue.

"I wouldn't have stopped at all on Saturday if I didn't think they were creating a hazard," the trooper said. "My action was based on the fact that I saw two men side-by-side in the travel portion of the roadway in a no-passing zone and there was a curve."

Had Leary and Kramer stopped and talked to Tanner, the trooper said the situation probably would have been resolved without a ticket.

While troopers won't necessarily be on the lookout for rollerskiers, they will respond if they receive complaints or see rollerskiers in the road, Tanner said.

"We don't have a specific agenda to hunt out rollerskiers on the highway ... but if troopers come across that or if citizens call, we will follow up and take appropriate action," Tanner said. "Any time we see anyone operating on a road in an unsafe manner, we're going to take enforcement action."

Rollerskiers have been left alone for the last 20 years, Tanner said, "because, generally people have done it in a manner that hasn't drawn attention."

Tanner had some advice for rollerskiers.

"I would suggest they use bike paths or get the statute changed."

As far as McDonnell is concerned, the whole thing is "kind of silly." UAF skiers have been training on Cripple Creek Road for the last two years and while McDonnell admitted there are a few motorists who are not rollerskier-friendly, most of the residents are supportive and courteous of the team's efforts.

While he appreciated troopers' safety concern, McDonnell said he didn't appreciate the way they handled the situation. McDonnell described troopers as "downright nasty" when they confronted his skiers.

"When he stopped the skiers, he didn't say anything about why they were being stopped," McDonnell said of Tellep. "He was just yelling and ordering them off their skis."

"They couldn't believe it was happening," he said of the team. "For some of them it was pretty traumatic, being ordered into the back of a police car."

According to McDonnell, Tellep allegedly forced one skier, Bart Dengel, off the road by standing in the middle of the road and ordering him to stop. Dengel ended up crashing and bruising his face when he went off the road.

"He was told to stop and he couldn't stop and he went off the roadway," said Tellep, offering his version of the incident.

Tellep referred to rollerskiers as "guided missiles" and wondered why an "institution of higher learning" such as UAF would encourage such an activity.

"I think it's a little ridiculous; we've got skiers flying down hills on rollerskates when they can't stop and they're not wearing elbow or knee pads," Tellep said. "It's like telling somebody to go out and play football without a helmet. What happens if one of these kids gets hit by car, who's going to get sued?"

While McDonnell acknowledges that rollerskiing is dangerous, the risk is one assumed solely by the skier, he said.

"If someone rollerskis into the side of a car, it's not going to be the car that's going to have a problem," he said. "If you treat a rollerskier like another vehicle and wait for an opportunity to pass, where's the danger?"

Rollerskiing is no different than bicycling, according to those who do it.

"Sometimes you might take up a little extra room but there's nothing dangerous or unlawful about doing that," Kramer said. "Cars have to respect that other people are using the road."

With troopers taking a new, harder stance on rollerskiing, McDonnell said he doesn't know what to do at this point.

"We want to be able to rollerski and we would like to rollerski on Cripple Creek Road because it's the best spot," he said. "We don't want to cause any problems."

For now, the UAF ski team is traveling to North Pole to use the bike paths at Chena Lakes Recreation Area to train.

"To force us onto bike paths that are strewn with gravel so bad that you can barely go forward on them, it's an easy out for them, but it leaves us nowhere," said McDonnell.

Meanwhile, Kramer, a local attorney, said he is considering filing a lawsuit against troopers on Dengel's behalf, in part to get troopers to explain the sudden crackdown on rollerskiing.

"One benefit of that would be to have troopers explain their actions out there," he said.

As for Leary, he said he plans to fight his ticket and Kramer will represent him in court.

"I think the police force could be directed to more law enforcement than harassing rollerskiers," said Leary.

Staff writer Tim Mowry can be reached at 459-7587 or [tmowry@newsminer.com](mailto:tmowry@newsminer.com).



### **13 AAC 02.395. Riding on bicycles and certain nonmotorized conveyances**

(a) Repealed 6/28/79.

(b) No person operating a bicycle upon a highway may carry a person other than the operator, unless the bicycle is equipped with a seat for the passenger, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack or sling.

(c) No person operating a bicycle or other nonmotorized conveyance may attach, hold on by hand or otherwise secure the bicycle or conveyance or himself to another vehicle so as to be towed or pulled.

(d) A person operating a bicycle upon a highway shall maintain control of the bicycle and shall at all times keep at least one hand upon the handlebars of the bicycle.

(e) No person may operate a unicycle, coaster, roller skates, or a similar device on a roadway.

(f) This section does not apply upon a roadway closed to motorized vehicle traffic.

**History:** In effect before 7/28/59; am 12/15/61, Register 3; am 8/10/66, Register 22; am 12/31/69, Register 31; am 6/28/79, Register 70

**Authority:** AS 28.05.011

### **13 AAC 02.400. Riding bicycles on roadways and bicycle paths**

(a) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, and shall give way to the right as far as practicable to a motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction when the driver of the motor vehicle gives audible signal.

(b) Persons riding bicycles on a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding bicycles two abreast may not impede traffic and, in a laned roadway, shall ride within the farthest right lane.

(c) When a shoulder of the highway is maintained in good condition, an operator of a bicycle shall use the shoulder of the roadway.

(d) A person operating a bicycle on a trail, path, sidewalk, or sidewalk area shall

(1) exercise care to avoid colliding with other persons or vehicles;

(2) give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian; and

(3) yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian.

(e) Repealed 6/28/79.

(f) A person riding a bicycle intending to turn left shall, unless he dismounts and crosses as a pedestrian,

THE  
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# Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

Box 80111, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Sent via fax: 907-465-5241

February 23, 2004

The Honorable Ralph Seekins  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99810-1182

SB 327 (rollerskiing)

Dear Senator Seekins:

The purpose of this letter is to thank you on behalf of the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks for introducing and supporting SB 327. Rollerskiing is important element of ski training for the national and international caliber cross-country skiers that reside in Alaska. The UAF and UAA skiers compete at the highest levels nationally, and need this important tool that is available in other states and just across the border in Canada. Roller skiing is a must for Olympian and Fairbanks resident Aelin Peterson if she wants to stay competitive and make the US Ski Team at the next Olympic Games. Over a dozen Fairbanks area high school and first year college age skiers will compete in early March at Arctic Winter Games in Alberta, Canada and at Junior Olympics (U.S. junior national championships) in Lake Placid, New York. Most if not all of these skiers use roller skis as a needed part of their training, and some have their own Olympic dreams. Moreover, as you know, there is a large cross-country skiing community in our state and many Alaskans get healthy, ski specific exercise in summer on roller skis.

SB 327 is good legislation not just because it makes clear that roller skiers and other individuals using similar devices can use the same roadways as bicyclists. SB 327 also provides clear safety requirements for roller skiers which also will benefit motorists. The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks pledges to work with the college and high school ski teams, ski training groups and the ski community at large to make them fully aware of the requirements of this legislation, and any other relevant information on appropriate roller skiing safety and etiquette.

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely Yours,

James Mery  
President

roller skiing

**Subject:** roller skiing

**Date:** Mon, 23 Feb 2004 07:25:29 -0900

**From:** "Faryniarz, Kathy" <KFarynia@provak.org>

**To:** "'Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Please support roller skiing on alaska's roads It is critical for training esp those athletes that represent us nationally and internationally Thanks  
Kathy Faryniarz

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**Subject: rollerski legislation SB327**

**Date:** Fri, 13 Feb 2004 13:54:53 -0900

**From:** "Kumin, Jon" <jkumin@kumin.alaska.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Sen Seekins:

In a word - THANK YOU! This is commonsense legislation we should all support.

Sincerely,

Jon Kumin  
7921 Charlotte Place  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**Subject: Roller Ski legislation**

**Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2004 19:09:03 EST**

**From: Jrjcsingleton@aol.com**

**To: Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Seekins

I am the President of Board of the Eagle River Nordic Ski Club and I would like to thank you for your support of bill 327. My son has earned the title of " skimeister" for being the top high school skier for the last two years. Because of this I am very much aware of the dedication and training requirements of the elite skiers of this state. In order for our skiers to be successful in national competition it is essential for them to train in the off season. A large component of this dry land training is on rollerskis. Bill 327 is important legislation for all the skiers of Alaska. Without it our skiers will have a distince training disadvantage over the skiers in the lower 48. Thanks to your bill our Alaskan skiers can contiune to excell in national and international competition.

Sincerely,

James C. Singleton D.D.S.

**Subject: Roller Skiing Bill**

**Date:** Fri, 13 Feb 2004 15:12:23 -0900

**From:** "Sorensen, Steve P." <SorensenSP@alyeska-pipeline.com>

**To:** "Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Ralph,  
Thanks for introducing the roller skiing bill. In my recreational life I have coached, raced, and instructed skiing for the last 30 years. Cross country skiing has kept a number of our kids "clean" while traversing the sometimes treacherous slopes of Junior High and High School peer pressure. My own kids, now mostly grown, have benefited from the discipline that cross country skiing has provided them and still provides them as high performing adults.

Thanks again!

Best Regards,  
Steve Sorensen  
Senior Structural Engineer  
Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.

**Subject: SB327**

**Date:** Fri, 13 Feb 2004 19:28:13 -0900

**From:** Dave & Leila Dengel <dengel@alaska.net>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Seekins:

Thanks for introducing SB327. Our son Bart was one of the UAF skiers stopped last fall for roller skiing near Fairbanks. Bart has roller skied on Thompson Pass for several years with no problems.  
Dave and Leila Dengel

**Subject: Roller Skiing**

**Date:** Sun, 15 Feb 2004 14:10:09 -0900

**From:** "Gooderham's" <brewers1@awcable.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you for introducing the bill to allow roller skiing to be legal.

I have been skiing since age 12 and cannot understand why

we have to legislate common sense. Roller skiing is the best

way to stay in shape before the snow flies again.

Thanks again

Chad Gooderham  
Fairbanks Alaska  
[brewers1@awcable.com](mailto:brewers1@awcable.com)

**Subject:** SB327

**Date:** Mon, 16 Feb 2004 10:44:12 -0900

**From:** "quinley" <quinley@alaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Seekins,

Thank you for introducing SB327. We are a family of cross country skiers in Anchorage, and our teenage daughter has represented Alaska in national competition for three years. Rollerskiing is an important part of her year-round training, and an enjoyable, safe exercise for the rest of us. Your bill describes how it can be done safely, and we urge the Legislature to pass the bill this year. Thank you again for looking out for the interests of Alaska's athletes. Feel free to pass along this message of support to other legislators.

John Quinley

563-856

**Subject: Roller skiing**

**Date:** Thu, 19 Feb 2004 09:07:04 -0800 (PST)

**From:** Don Pendergrast <don\_pendergrast@yahoo.com>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Seekins,

Thank you for introducing legislation legalizing roller skiing in Alaska. We have a strong skiing community, UAF and UAA are national powers. Alaska has Olympians and Jr. Olympians in abundance. We consistently send cross skiers to national and international competitions.

It's hard to imagine not having enough snow in Alaska, but world class athletes need to train year round and roller skies allows this to happen.

Thank you again,

Don Pendergrast  
1358 Spring Glade Rd  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**Subject: Senate Bill 327**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 10:34:45 -0900

**From:** "Bert Boyer" <ffbbb@uaf.edu>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Seekins,

I want to personally thank you for introducing Senate Bill 327.

I have been roller skiing in Fairbanks for the last 6-8 years and have found it to be an extremely healthful and enjoyable way to stay fit in the summer. I have had one bad experience with an angry motorist in the summer of 2002, and interestingly, when I called the troopers, they supported my right to roller ski on the road. Thus, I was surprised to see the article in the News Miner last fall that indicated it was illegal.

It is clearly time to introduce a bill to make roller skiing legal in Alaska and I applaud your efforts.

Many thanks!

Bert

Bert Boyer, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Molecular Biology  
Institute of Arctic Biology  
Center for Alaska Native Health Research  
311 Irving I Bldg.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone - 907-474-7733  
Fax - 907-474-6967 or -5700  
bert.boyer@uaf.edu  
[http://www.iab.uaf.edu/~bert\\_boyer](http://www.iab.uaf.edu/~bert_boyer)  
<http://www.alaska.edu/canhr/>

Thank you for your support of Skiers of Alaska

**Subject: Thank you for your support of Skiers of Alaska**

**Date:** Thu, 19 Feb 2004 15:02:47 -0900

**From:** "Kent Karns" <kkarns@hswarehouse.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Seekins,

Thanks for introducing the bill allowing roller skiing. You have drafted a bill that allows for safe use of the roads for serious skiers, including high school and college athletes from Alaska that continue on the road to national, international and Olympic ski competitions.

Please keep up the good work in Juneau.

Yours,

R. Kent Karns  
H&S Warehouse, Inc.  
Treasurer

**Subject: FW: Legislation letter**

**Date:** Fri, 20 Feb 2004 09:30:18 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian E. Hove" <Brian\_Hove@Legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Sigrid Aas [mailto:sigrid-a@online.no]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2004 1:13 AM

To: Bill.McDonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: Legislation letter

Here is the letter for the rollerskiing proposition. Feel free to correct any spellings or errors in it. I didn't know who to adress it for either, or what to put on the heading.

To Whom it Might Concern

Rollerskiing Legislation

Fairbanks is a town filled with cross country skiers. The two high schools in town have cross country ski teams and UAF has a nordic skiing program. In addition to that, The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks has numerous members and they offer activities to children and people of all ages and abilities. In the summer time, nordic skiers with ambitions have to train well in order to become better at skiing. Rollerskiing plays a great part in this, and it is basically a way to nordic ski on wheels.

This fall rollerskiing became a hot issue in Fairbanks after me and some UAF skiers got transported by the Troopers after one of our rollerski practises. I can understand that drivers sometimes get anxious and angry after they encounter rollerskiers on the road. Sometimes the road just isn't wide enough to safely pass in turns and curves. With a little cooperation between the rollerskier and the driver, however, it should be perfectly safe to pass in most cases. This is where the problem starts. Sometimes rollerskiers are not being considerative enough of cars coming, and sometimes car drivers are not being considerate enough on behalf of the rollerskiers. However, as far as I know (judging by my own experiences and by training with the UAF team) rollerskiers largely do their best to avvoid dangerous situations and conflicts. After all, it is most likely the rollerskier, and not the car driver who would be left with broken bones after a potential accident. Believe me, I do my uttermost to avoid that from ever happening, and I think that goes for other rollerskiers as well.

Nordic skiers also bike a lot for training in the summer and fall. During many of my bike rides, I have been harrassed by car drivers in the same fashion as while rollerskiing, while safely keeping within the white line on the road shoulder. Now, many drivers apparently think that biking is also dangerous on the roads. Should we forbid biking as well? I think that many drivers are starting to believe that the roads should be a domaine for cars only, so that it is more permissible to drive faster, more recklessly, and without having to worry about hitting a rollerskier, biker or, even, a walking person. Is this right? Should everybody adjust their exercising and commuting habits so that drivers can drive without taking any considerations?

After the insident where UAF skiers were transported with Troopers from Pearl Creek, one of the troopers talked about how the rollerskiing on that road was going to kill someone one day since people were speeding and drunk driving there!! I think that is a fundamentally wrong way of looking at it, since that actually excuses the fact that people are drunk driving and speeding on that road. If the troopers already knew that, perhaps they should focus more on catching those drunk drivers and speeding cars instead of jumping in front of a rollerskier coming down a hill during a workout. (That insident represent the only accident we had on the UAF team so far, and ironically it was only because the Trooper was trying to "prevent" an accident).

All in all, I think that to forbid rollerskiers on the road will be the beginning of somthing that in the long run will make for more dangerous roads and more reckless driving. More resources should be delegated to the real problems as far as road safety, such as drunk driving and speed control.

Sincerely,  
Sigrid Aas  
UAF Ski Team

**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller-Skiing**

**Date:** Wed, 18 Feb 2004 09:15:46 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Wayne Watson [mailto:watson@xyz.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2004 7:27 AM

**To:** Bill Mcdonnell

**Subject:** In Support of Roller-Skiing

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been involved with Cross-country skiing in Alaska for 25 years and President of the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club in the Homer area for the past ten years. I am the current President of KNSC. KNSC has a membership of about 250 members and grooms and manages about 50 kilometers of trails in the Homer area. I am an avid cross-country skier and off-season roller-skier. My wife and I are the proud parents of a 3 time Junior Olympian who also skied in college at the University of Nevada. Off-season roller-skiing was a key element in his training program as a Junior and in college. We also enjoy roller-skiing but are very limited in places we can legally participate in the sport. We strongly believe Nordic skiing is a very healthy, lifelong sport and roller-skiing is part of that pasttime. To that end I'd like to go on record in support of State Senator Ralph Seekins of Fairbanks introduction of a bill to the legislature that will specifically amend the existing statutes to make roller-skiing legal in the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Wayne Watson

President-Kachemak Nordic Ski Club

PO Box 884

Homer, AK 99603

**Subject: FW: rollerskiing**

**Date:** Wed, 18 Feb 2004 09:17:19 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ida martin [mailto:xc\_ski\_frog@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004 5:08 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** rollerskiing

My name is Ida Martin, I am from Homer Alaska and I am an active cross country skier from Alaska. I am away at college on a skiing scholarship in Gunnison Colorado, I return to Alaska for the summer to work and train for skiing. Rollerskiing is a big part of my summer training, and if I was not able to rollerskiing it would make it hard for me and many other skiers to return to Alaska for training. Also this would affect UAA's and UAF's ski teams, many high schools, and many club teams. Alaska has prouded its self on having a great team at Junior team at the Juniorr Olympics. All over the nation people know that Alaska has the skiers to beat. the Two times I traveled to the Juniorr Olympics as part of thAlaskaka team, wdominateded thcomposition. Puttingng 3 to 7 people in the top team, wining many of the age class relay , and having many of our athletes named Juniorr Olympic champions. As a team we won the team title oy 500 points or more.

University Alaska Anchorage is doing really well on the college NCAA circuit right now in 2004. Sara Handson won her first westerndivisionncollegiatet title at the the Utah races. She uses roller skiing as summer training.

Katie Ronse of the Alaska Winter Stars and the Service High school ski team, was named to the world Junior team of US skiers to go over to Europe and compitcompete; I trained with her over last summer and she was an avide avidroller skier; She used roller skiing to get in shape, and she has gotten to were she is by using summer training, mostly roller skiing.

Alaska has made a name in the US and the world through the skiers that have come out of Alaska. Many if not all skiers use roller skiing as summer training. It is the most accuaccuratem of simulating skiing when a skier can't get on snow.

People use the roads for training with bikes, on foot, and rollroller skiessp; If we allowlowlerskiing to be band were will it stop. Who is to say that bikes won't be band, or you will get a ticket for running on a road that has been part of your traing for years. Alaska is know for its skiers, why short them on all opportunities to get as far as they can. It is like asking a person to work with a handicap that is not natural, one that has been put on them by someone.

I want to know why this is even an issue right now. PeopPeoplee been roller skiing in Alaska for many years. who wants to get rid of roller skiing, people who don't understand the sport of skiing. I feel that I try to be fair when I pass jujudgmentr I keep an open mind. I think that people should also when it comes to the issue of roller skiing.

FW: rollerskiing

I am sstronglyin favor of keeping roller skiing legal in Alaska, as both a citizen and an athlete.

I can be reached at 970-943-2760 or [xc\\_ski\\_frog@yahoo.com](mailto:xc_ski_frog@yahoo.com) and CPO Box 5477 Gunnison, Co 81231

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**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller-skiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 12:37:16 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Debbie & Charlie [mailto:pooregib@xyz.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004 12:22 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** In Support of Roller-skiing

Yes, I support roller-skiing in Alaska. We are an outdoors type of people and should have all means of exercise and recreation encouraged. With the unpredictable snow conditions it makes sense that roller-skiing be available for people to continue training and exercising. Roller-skiing is a life-long exercise and helps combat cabin fever and SAD, which many Alaskans are familiar with. Please do all you can to change the legislation in support of roller-skiing.

Thank you. Sincerely, Deborah Poore

Homer, Alaska

**Subject: FW: roller-skiing in Alaska**

**Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2004 08:16:28 -0900**

**From: "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>**

**To: "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>**

-----Original Message-----

From: Jay Laxson [mailto:[jlaxson1@corecom.net](mailto:jlaxson1@corecom.net)]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2004 7:32 PM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: roller-skiing in Alaska

Dear Senator Ralph Seekins

Thank you for introducing a bill to the legislature that will amend the existing statutes to make roller-skiing legal in the state of Alaska. I

didn't appreciate that this was not legal currently. I have been skiing with the Alaska Pacific University ski team for the past 2 years and, as you can appreciate, this is a valuable addition to the road and mountain

biking, running, hill-bounding and general strength work-outs that we do. Roller-skiing is critical to developing techniques, balance, and strength specific to cross country ski racing.

Road courtesy and safety are of paramount importance in fostering community support for roller-skiing on the paved public roads. Since there was a "major problem" with regards to roller-skiing in Fairbanks, the Anchorage nordic skiing community has become aware of the need to be

responsible when sharing the roads with automobile traffic. Hopefully the lessons learned will make everyone more aware of their skiing etiquette.

Sincerely,

Jay Laxson  
11901 Woodbourne Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
907 345-3639  
[jlaxson1@corecom.net](mailto:jlaxson1@corecom.net)

**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller-skiing**

**Date:** Fri, 13 Feb 2004 08:15:46 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nathan Wolfe [mailto:nate\_the\_great\_skiier@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2004 5:37 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** In Support of Roller-skiing

Hello,

I am Nathan Wolfe, a junior at East High School. I have skied pretty much all my life and love the sport. I train avidly, as do many of my friends. This training includes running, biking, strength, and most importantly, roller-skiing. It is the closest way to mimic and perfect skiing technique and muscles without actually skiing on snow. Without roller-skiing the hard core trainers who would like to make skiing their life, or at least for their college career, and represent Alaska as we accomplish these dreams, lose a very important factor in getting there. Please consider what you are doing when you make roller-skiing illegal on public roads, and question if it really is needed. The majority of skiers are considerate when roller skiing and stay on the far side of the road, farthest from the cars. Please don't jeprodize the dreams of so many highschool skiers. Thank you for your time.

Nathan wolfe, 3336 Upland Dr., Anchorage Ak, 99504

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FW: in support of roller-skiing

**Subject:** FW: in support of roller-skiing  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2004 16:58:22 -0900  
**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>  
**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

I will be making a binder full of the hard copies of all the letters I receive.

Bill

-----Original Message-----

**From:** quinley [mailto:quinley@alaska.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2004 4:39 PM  
**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu  
**Subject:** in support of roller-skiing

February 12, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased Senator Seekins is proposing to amend the existing statutes to make roller-skiing legal in the state of Alaska.

As the mother of two lifelong cross-country skiers (ages 13 and 16), I know the importance of year-round training. I also know nothing comes closer to emulating cross-country skiing than roller-skiing.

Just as I have taught my children to be courteous and accommodating when using sidewalks, hiking trails, biking trails, and other public corridors, I have taught them to be respectful when roller-skiing on public roads. In addition, their coaches have taught them to roller-ski single file and to obey the same laws that apply to bicyclists using public roads. In fact, when one of their coaches noticed two athletes roller-skiing side-by-side, he stopped them, told them to take off their roller-skis, had them walk back to the van and made them wait out the practice. This is how seriously the cross-country ski community regards this form of training, and the lengths to which they will go to preserve it.

I believe the majority of roller-skiers are at least as courteous and law-abiding as the motorized users with whom they share the public roads. I am hopeful Mr. Seekins' commonsense proposal meets with approval.

Sincerely,

Constance K Quinley  
1812 Bowdoin Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 563-8569

**Subject: FW: in support of rollerskiing**

**Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2004 13:07:00 -0900**

**From: "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>**

**To: "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>**

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Johnson [<mailto:salgalpal11@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2004 12:57 PM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: in support of rollerskiing

I have cross county skied in Alaska for most of my life. I began with junior nordic and went on to high school racing, racing at junior nationals, and now college ski racing. Alaska is a wonderful place to ski; we have great ski trails, a supportive ski community, and fairly reliable snow.

These factors and others have allowed Alaskans to excel at nordic skiing, our Junior team has won Nationals countless times and we have produced some of the nation's best skiers. We generally have good snow through the winter months, allowing Alaskan skiers quality training, but this is not so in the summer. The majority of my summer trianing is rollerskiing. If Alaskan nordic skiers were unable to rollerski, they would be at a great disadvantage to many of their competitors living elsewhere. Please amend the current statutes and allow rollerskiing to be legal in Alaska.

Thanks,

Sally Johnson

1334 Bannister Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

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**Subject: FW: support of roller skiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 10:15:54 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Kiki Abrahamson [mailto:kabrahamson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us]

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 10:07 AM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: support of roller skiing

I support making roller skiing legal.

My 15 year old daughter won gold and silver medals in international biathlon competition in Sweden, but training in Alaska has been problematic. She trained in Lake Placid and with the Minnesota team and with them learned how to roller ski and develop a year round training plan. Although this worked for several years, it became too expensive for our family. Now she could rollerski to maintain her training here, but not if it is illegal.

That roller skiing is illegal seems completely ludicrous to me. We are constantly faced with challenges to help young people make wise activity choices and encourage everyone to keep up exercising for health as a life long pursuit. Then why would there be an ordinance against an activity that promotes a healthy activity? What is the message lawmakers are sending out... Sorry, you can't roller ski so why don't you go hang out at the beach with your friends and smoke some pot... Or, why don't you just sit down in front of the TV, drink a few beers and catch a game or two. If you're lucky you may even get a peek at Janet Jackson's breast.

Kiki Abrahamson

**Subject: FW: rollski**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 10:02:06 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: tigerdemers@att.net [mailto:tigerdemers@att.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 9:59 AM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: rollski

fyi

Judy & Tiger E. Demers  
P.O. Box 991  
26975 Williwa St.  
Kasilof AK 99610 0991  
tigerdemers@att.net  
907-283-5133

February 17, 2004

Bill McDonnell  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
P.O. Box 757440  
Fairbanks Alaska 99775

Dear Mr. McDonnell,  
The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the proposed roller-ski legislation.

We are residents of Kasilof , a small rural community with no public recreational facilities. No sidewalks, no bike paths, and hardly any paved roads other than the Sterling Highway and Kalifornski Beach Road. The one thing that we like to do is either bicycle and or roller ski on Coho Loop Road which has a low volume of local traffic. In the past, the state police have observed us roller skiing and for what ever reason have never talked to us about any inrractions.

I am 64 years old and an ex Olympic athlete, the 1964 Nordic Winter Olympic Team at Innsbruck Austria. One other to consider is our current Olympian and World Cup Biathlon competitor , Jay Hakkinen of Kasilof. And, there are others who will be positively affected by this legislation.

Thank you for your kind attention. If any additional information is desired, we will make every effort to meet your request.  
Au Revoir Mon Ami,  
Tiger Demers

--  
Au Revoir Mon Ami  
Tiger & Judy Demers  
P.O.Box 991  
26975 Williwa St.  
Kasilof AK 99610  
907-283-5133

**Subject: FW: Groseclose support for rollerskiing bill w/address**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:53:08 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob [mailto:bob@alaskalaw.com]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2004 10:17 AM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: RE: Groseclose support for rollerskiing bill w/address

Bill, I overlooked my address, below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob [mailto:bob@alaskalaw.com]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2004 9:56 AM

To: 'bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu'

Subject: Groseclose support for rollerskiing bill

Bill,

Add my name to those supporting legislation which would modify the existing

statute/regulation so as to tolerate and accommodate roller skiing.

Cross-country skiing is to Alaska as surfing is to California. The law

should reasonably accommodate this Alaskan pastime. Roller skiing is an

off-season, ski-training activity. Certain roadways can accommodate the

sharing of roller-skiing with other users. A total ban effectively

eliminates off-season cross-country ski training. The law should be

relaxed

to allow roller-skiing when traffic safety is not unreasonably

comprised.

There are many roadways in the state where roller-skiers have for many

years

peacefully coexisted safely and in harmony with other users. The law

should

accommodate such usage. The total ban should be modified.

Bob Groseclose

520 Marshall Drive

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

907/457-5498

FW: I support Roller Skiing!

**Subject: FW: I support Roller Skiing!**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:52:11 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** The Harrisons [mailto:hhhomer@alaska.net]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2004 3:54 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** I support Roller Skiing!

My name is Brian Harrison and I am in favor of keeping roller skiing legal. As a Homer resident we are often the victims of unseasonably warm winter weather. The ability to roller ski makes training less of an issue due to poor snow conditions. It also makes training possible year round. My daughters both have been on the school cross country ski teams. Having this avenue open to them to improve their skills is invaluable. When the national spot light is on obesity in our population, why would anyone take away another method of all important exercise. I can be reached at 1065 Larkspur Ct., Homer Ak. 99603, or 907-235-8922 should you have questions. Thank you for taking the time to consider this very important issue.

Brian Harrison

**Subject: FW: In Sjuupport of Roller Skiing**

**Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:51:06 -0900**

**From: "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>**

**To: "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>**

-----Original Message-----

From: spirit1@ptialaska.net [mailto:spirit1@ptialaska.net]

Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2004 9:59 AM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: In Sjuupport of Roller Skiing

Dear Bill,

I am the parent of several former high school cross country skiers and I am

a skier myself. I am very much in favor of our skiers at all levels having

the option of training on roller skis when there is no snow. Rather than

being annoyed by the skiers using the road, I am always impressed at their

dedication to their sport. While I would be happy to have wider shoulders

on our roads for the use of all sports including bicycles and running strollers, I am more than willing to slow down for others using the roads.

I am in support of roller skiing on the roads; I am in fact in support of

use of our roads for non-motorized travel as well. Thank you.

Gail Davidson  
1547 Chena Ridge Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
(907) 479-7127

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**Subject: FW: Re: SB 327-Rollerskiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:50:14 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Brennan Walsh [mailto:bwalsh01@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2004 3:54 PM

To: Bill.McDonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: FW: Re: SB 327-Rollerskiing

>From: Senator French <senator\_hollis\_french@legis.state.ak.us>

>To: Brennan Walsh <bwalsh01@hotmail.com>

>Subject: Re: SB 327-Rollerskiing

>Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2004 13:58:56 -0900

>

>Dear Brennan,

>Thank you for your letter regarding SB 327. I will look this bill over  
>carefully. It certainly seems like a good idea. I am an avid  
recreational

>skier, and I am certainly supportive of any legislation that makes it  
>easier for

>Alaskans to get out and exercise!

>Best of luck in your endeavors,

>Hollis French

>

>

>Brennan Walsh wrote:

>

> > Dear Sen. Hollis,

> >

> > My name is Brennan Walsh and I am an active cross country skier in  
>Anchorage

> > and on the NCAA college circuit. I competed for West High Team  
Alaska,

>the

> > US Junior Biathlon Team, and now I race for the University of  
Nevada,

>Reno.

> > I am writing to ask for your support to pass SB 237. The bill allows  
the

>use

> > of Rollerskiing on roadways. As any serious skier will tell you, the  
> > importance of rollerskiing in the summer outweighs any other type  
of

> > training activity an athlete can do. I can say first hand that I  
would

>not

> > have been able to go as far as I have, without the use of summer

> > rollerskiing. Please vote in favor of this bill for myself, the  
skiing

> > community of our district, and for all the similar athletes around  
the

> > state. Thank you for your time.

> >

> > Brennan Walsh

> >

> > (school address)

> > 905 Washington St.  
> > Reno, NV, 89503  
> >  
> > (Alaska address)  
> > 1901 Belair  
> > Anchorage, AK 99517  
> >  
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>  
>--  
>Sen. Hollis French  
>State Capitol, Room 504  
>Juneau, AK 99801  
>toll free (866) 465-3892  
>  
>visit my website at <http://www.akdemocrats.org>  
>  
>

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**Subject: FW: Roller-skiing on Public Right of Ways**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:47:02 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Karen Mannix [mailto:karen\_mannix@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 15, 2004 7:20 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** Roller-skiing on Public Right of Ways

My name is Karen Mannix. I am a 24-year resident of Talkeetna, Alaska, co-founder of Denali Junior Nordic ski Club and the Su Valley High School Cross Country Ski Coach for the past 6 seasons. I am writing in support of the legislative effort to allow roller-skiing on public roads. Although I would agree that there is a degree of risk involved in roller-skiing on roads in Alaska, I see no great difference between roller-skiing and bicycling, and I highly doubt there could be legal merit for determining one use more unsafe than the other.

However, my primary concerns for legislating AGAINST roller-skiing are these: 1) Our state has produced some of the best Nordic skiers in the country, in part because these athletes can summer train on roller-skis. 2) There are inadequate bike path systems to allow for roller-skiing. A perfect example is in the Talkeetna area, where a person can't travel from point A to point B anywhere in the area unless he/she is on a public road, the railroad, or in the woods! Several years ago, a side-road off the Talkeetna Spur (the Comsat) was freshly paved and allowed the only roller-skiable surface within a 60-mile radius. The Spur itself was pitted, pot-holed, and cracked. Last summer a bike path was constructed and may finally be used, but the Comsat is still able to provide variety and can be accessed by some residents without having to drive there. True, it might be safer to roller-ski solely on the bike path, BUT there is no legislation which denies anyone the right to ride a bike on the Comsat, and having done both, I personally see no difference between the two. 3) Bicycling and roller-skiing are very similar activities; many people commute, train, recreate using either/or or both forms of transportation...if one legislates against one, the other should follow. However, our State doesn't feel compelled to disallow bicycles on the busy city streets of Anchorage; how does roller-skiing on less busy public right-of-ways differ? 4) Compelling roller-skiers to use bike paths will seriously disable the use of good, paved training areas for serious nordic skiers. This would likewise be true for the serious bicyclist, and I would oppose any legislation which would hamper either activity.

We currently have a helmet law which mandates helmet use on motorcycles and snow machines. I maintain that any road user (motor vehicle or other) needs to be adequately prepared for safety; when I summer coach nordic athletes, they are required to wear helmets, but they are also allowed to ski on the sides of paved roads...otherwise, our Nordic ship would have been sunk years ago!

When our legislators begin to tackle public use "restrictions" on public right-of-ways, it is very important to be consistent. I don't see how it is possible for one to tell a resident of a neighborhood that they can bike to their friend's house but they can't roller-ski (or in-line skate, for that matter). I also feel that if the State of Alaska were really paying attention to types of recreation on public right-of-ways, it would more wisely use its time citing the many young snow-machiners, kids under 16 years old, without any type of driving permit, who spend hours snow-machining at high speeds on (non-motorized) bike paths all over Alaska in winter. How many fatalities have we seen related to snow machine use vs roller-skiing?

As a skier, roller-skier, and coach, I feel it is necessary to allow roller-skiing activity on roads unless the State is willing to build a "non-motorized paved path" adjacent to each road. Whether training or commuting, roller-skiing should be allowed. I would suggest we tackle the snow machine issue (on non-motorized bike paths in winter) before attempting to legislate against something much more "healthy" and much less potentially injurious to others or self (roller-skiing on roads in summer).

Karen Mannix

PO Box 284

Talkeetna, Ak. 99676

907-733-2615

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FW: in support of roller-skiing

**Subject:** FW: in support of roller-skiing  
**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:44:10 -0900  
**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>  
**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Elizabeth Quinley [mailto:queen\_elizabeth05@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2004 5:26 PM  
**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu  
**Subject:** in support of roller-skiing

February 12, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

As an avid skier for both APUNSC and East Anchorage High School, I am happy that Senator Seekins is proposing to make roller-skiing legal. Rollerskiing is very important to the nordic skiing community, and ensuring its legality is a good idea. To excel in nordic skiing, roller-skiing is crucial. It provides year-round training and a motion very similar to skiing on snow.

When roller-skiing, my team and I are careful and accomodating to oncoming traffic as well as pedestrians. Our coaches are adamant about skiing single file and getting to the side of the road when cars need to get by. We wear helmets, stay on the correct side of the road, and try hard not to obstruct traffic. We follow the rules just as bike-riders and pedestrians do, and would greatly appreciate it if rollerskiing was recognized as legal.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth O. Quinley

1812 Bowdoin Circle

Anchorage, AK 99508

(907) 563-8569

[queen\\_elizabeth05@hotmail.com](mailto:queen_elizabeth05@hotmail.com)

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**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller Skiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:42:30 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Stallard [mailto:[fntws@uaf.edu](mailto:fntws@uaf.edu)]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2004 10:01 AM

To: Bill McDonnell (E-mail)

Subject: In Support of Roller Skiing

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for legislation that legalizes roller skiing on Alaska's roads. Nordic skiing is a sport in which our Alaskan athletes are competitive at an international level. While we are blessed with one of the longest ski seasons anywhere, our nordic athletes need to train year round to stay competitive.

Our public roads offer the only easily accessible place where Alaska's nordic athletes can train in the summer - so I urge you to make this possible.

Thank you,

Tim Stallard  
1001 Mia St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
(907) 452-8980

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Tim Stallard < <a href="mailto:tim.stallard">tim.stallard</a> > Outdoor Adventures coordinator University of Alaska Fairbanks Explore Alaska: <a href="http://www.uaf.edu/outdoor">www.uaf.edu/outdoor</a>
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**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller Skiing Legislation**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:42:11 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ron Klein [mailto:xcsg@gci.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004 6:46 AM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** In Support of Roller Skiing Legislation

Bill,

Thank you for working with Senator Seekins to support amending state statutes to make roller skiing legal. I was shocked to learn last summer that roller skiing was illegal. Skiing is a way of life in Anchorage. Roller skiing is an essential activity for maintaining ski conditioning and training for winter races. I have skied with APUN Nordic in the past and roller skiing has been an essential component of the training plan. Alaska has been a significant contributor to the US National Ski and Biathlon Teams and the ability for Alaskan team members to roller ski during the off season is essential to maintaining the competitive edge.

Ron Klein

3316 Knik Ave

Anchorage, AK 99517

**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller-Skiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:40:53 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Martins [mailto:tadida@xyz.net]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 14, 2004 12:01 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** In Support of Roller-Skiing

Dear Committee Members:

We are a cross-country ski family in Homer and roller skiing is a big part of our summer fun. Larry Martin, my husband, is a former US Olympic team member. He grew up in Homer. Our daughter Ida Martin is a collegiate cross-country skier in Colorado. Our son is a member of the Homer High School ski team. A favorite summer workout for Larry and Ida is to roller ski up Friz Creek Hill east of Homer. They also enjoy roller skiing up East Hill and up West Hill and across Skyline Drive. The Homer High School Ski Team also uses roller skis in these areas as a great pre-season training method.

My job in these workouts is to meet the roller skiers at the tops of the hills and give them a ride home. These are joyous, vigorous workouts. We're all four very much in favor of the use of roller skis. Legislation against such an activity is a vote in favor of atrophy and laziness and the use of automobiles instead of the human body!!!

Sincerely,

Linda Martin, for Larry, Ida and Tad

364 Rangeview

Homer, AK 99603

(907) 235-6758

**Subject: FW: In Support of Roller-Skiing**

**Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:39:01 -0900**

**From: "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>**

**To: "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>**

-----Original Message-----

From: Frode Lillefjell [<mailto:skitur@alaskapacific.edu>]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2004 10:53 AM

To: bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

Subject: In Support of Roller-Skiing

Anchorage and Alaska has a very large cross- country skiing community that rely on roller-skiing on public roads as one of the main forms of specific training during the summer and fall. If roller-skiing were to be banned from public roads, many high level skiers training would be compromised and Alaskans would be at a clear disadvantage compared to skiers from a lot of other states.

For us skiers this is a serious problem, that need to be addressed. One option that we skier would like to have, in addition to public road, is trails made especially for roller- skiing, however these trails cost a lot of money to build and as of today we have none. If we had one good roller-ski trail in Anchorage and Fairbanks respectively it would take a lot of the pressure of the public roads and only the highest level skiers would still need to use the roads some. Until then we hope we can continue to use public roads for our training in a safe and cooperative manner with other people on the roads.

Sincerely,

Frode Lillefjell

Assistant Coach Alaska Pacific University Nordic Ski Center

4101 University Drive Anchorage, AK 99508

E-mail: Skitur@alaskapacific.edu

**Subject: FW: In support of rollerskiing**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 08:37:51 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Sugai [mailto:fnsfs@uaf.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2004 7:54 PM

**To:** bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu

**Subject:** In support of rollerskiing

373 Droz Drive  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
16 February 2004

Dear Honorable Senators,

This letter is written in support of SB 327 allowing roller skiers to legally use public roadways as bicycles currently do. Like many Nordic skiers both recreational and competitive, I was attracted to Fairbanks because of the well-groomed crosscountry ski trails and long on-snow season for pursuing our passion. I've been rollerskiing on Fairbanks roadways since 1987 and in those many years, State troopers have never stopped me as I've rollerskied on the Parks Highway, Sheep Creek, Murphy Dome, Rosie Creek, or Goldstream Roads. Although recently most of my rollerskiing has either been done alone or with one or two others, I have previously participated in roller ski clinics and training groups. Like most rollerskiers, I am considerate of vehicular traffic and move as far right as feasible and doublepole rather than skate when being passed by vehicles, bicycles, or other rollerskiers.

Currently, I'm in my tenth season coaching a Masters (over 40 year old) Men's ski training group. We meet weekly from November through April and the skiers are Fairbanks area residents ranging from University faculty and administrators to a local bar tender. Usually 12 to 15 of these skiers complete the annual Sonot Kkaazoot 50 km ski race in late March with several others doing the shorter 20 km version. While many of this group, myself included, used to be runners in the "dryland" season, rollerskiing allows us to participate in non-impact activity that has similar physical demands to Nordic skiing. Like the younger and more elite skiers who are striving to make University and Olympic teams, rollerskiing is an important activity for Masters skiers during our 6 months without snow. Masters skiers contribute not only to our local economy but also volunteer countless hours to the infrastructure that makes Fairbanks attractive to national and international Nordic skiers for training in the fall, and to national race organizing committees as a fantastic venue for events like the 2003 Junior Olympics held at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. The future of Nordic skiing in Fairbanks and the state of Alaska would definitely be brighter if local athletes of all ages could pursue their sport legally on roadways available to bicycles.

Thank you for your support in helping the greater Alaskan ski community.

Warm regards,

FW: In support of rollerskiing

Susan Sugai, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Alaska Sea Grant College Program

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fairbanks, AK 99775-5040

(907) 474-6840; fax (907) 474-6285

<http://www.uaf.edu/seagrant/staff/sugai.html>

<http://www.arctic.gov/ssugai.htm>

**Subject: FW: Senate Bill 327**

**Date:** Tue, 17 Feb 2004 11:00:46 -0900

**From:** "bill mcdonnell" <bill.mcdonnell@uaf.edu>

**To:** "Brian Hove" <Brian\_Hove@legis.state.ak.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Bert Boyer [mailto:ffbhb@uaf.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2004 10:35 AM

To: Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: Senate Bill 327

Dear Senator Seekins,

I want to personally thank you for introducing Senate Bill 327.

I have been roller skiing in Fairbanks for the last 6-8 years and have found it to be an extremely healthful and enjoyable way to stay fit in the summer. I have had one bad experience with an angry motorist in the summer of 2002, and interestingly, when I called the troopers, they supported my right to roller ski on the road. Thus, I was surprised to see the article in the News Miner last fall that indicated it was illegal.

It is clearly time to introduce a bill to make roller skiing legal in Alaska and I applaud your efforts.

Many thanks!

Bert

Bert Boyer, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Molecular Biology  
Institute of Arctic Biology  
Center for Alaska Native Health Research  
311 Irving I Bldg.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775  
Phone - 907-474-7733  
Fax - 907-474-6967 or -5700  
bert.boyer@uaf.edu  
[http://www.iab.uaf.edu/~bert\\_boyer](http://www.iab.uaf.edu/~bert_boyer)  
<http://www.alaska.edu/canhr/>

February 25, 2004

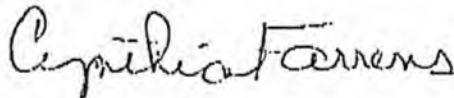
Dear Senators,

Please support SB 327: An Act relating to pedestrians using roller blades, roller skates, and similar devices.

As part of the Skiing community in Homer, we safely utilize local roads for roller skiing and roller blading. We primarily use the only bike trail available in town, however this is a flat trail with does not provide the training our athletes need to stay in condition for the up-coming races. Thus, we use the shoulders of public roads without disrupting traffic.

Please support this legislation and support the Homer's athletes.

Thank you,



Cynthia Fairens  
P.O. Box 3821  
Homer, AK 99603  
235-2166

Dear Senators:

We would like to support legislation SB327 which would allow roller skies and ski blades to be used on Homer streets without ticketing. We are a skiing community and our skiers use their roller skies in the off-season for important training. To take away the ability to do this would greatly decrease their summer fitness program. Our coaches are mindful of safety issues and monitor the athletes when they are training near roadways.

We have a daughter on the high school ski team who recently qualified for the Arctic Winter games and a son in 5th grade who will also compete in future skiing events. Both of them have used their roller skies in the past summers to stay in shape before the winter. There is nothing nearly as comparable they can do to simulate skiing.

Thank you, Leslie and Jens Klaar,

37420 Watercolor Lakes Drive,  
Anchor Point, AK. 99556