

Dear Chair Beyer, Chair McClain, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting comments today on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails and Back Country Horsemen of Oregon. We are nonprofit organizations whose members volunteer to maintain trails on public lands and work to ensure that public lands remain open to equestrian use.

We are concerned about lines 14-17 of the proposed legislation, which requires cities and counties to permit the use of electric bikes and motorized scooters on footpaths and bicycle trails funded with State Highway monies.

E-bikes and motorized scooters are motorized vehicles, many of which are capable of near-highway speeds. While their use may be appropriate on some footpaths and bicycle trails, their use can jeopardize the safety of other trail users in many other instances.

We believe local jurisdictions are in the best position to decide whether any given pathway should allow e-bike and motorized scooter use. Such use should not be mandated by the State.

Pedestrians, dog-walkers, equestrians, children on bicycles, and families pushing baby strollers use many of the paths and lanes in question. Please don't put them in harm's way by requiring local governments to allow e-bikes and motorized scooters.