

February 16, 2024

Dear Lawmakers,

I wholeheartedly support the passage of any law that makes riding e-bikes and e-scooters illegal for kids under 16 years of age. As a school principal, I see firsthand the dangers of these vehicles, especially in the hands of children. Kids zip through the park or down the sidewalk. They rip around corners. It's only a matter of time before a toddler or young child is struck and killed. We have 30 to 40 of these bikes on our campus everyday. It's totally unsafe, and my stakeholders are outraged.

Where I work, Pacific Crest Middle School, we have an elementary school, middle school, and high school all clustered together. There are kids everywhere after school. We need a clear law that police can easily enforce. Our local police department tells me that the current law on the books is too difficult to enforce, that there's no traffic code to cite.

Let's give law enforcement the tools it needs to enforce this crucial safety measure. Let's keep our streets as safe as possible. We can avoid further death and serious, lifelong injury if we have a clear law that can be easily enforced. We've already lost Trenton, a Bend-La Pine student. Please, no more.

Finally, at the school level, we need a law that we can point to and say, "No e-bikes or scooters on campus. You're not 16 yet, and this is the law." To that end, I encourage you to pass a law that does not differentiate between the kinds of e-bikes. That would be harder for us to enforce than a blanket law that bans all kinds of e-bikes for kids under 16. The pedal-assist bikes are also dangerous and get kids moving faster than what is natural, by your own energy. Please just ban all e-bikes and scooters.

Thanks for considering these suggestions and working to keep our community safer.

Respectfully,



Sean Keating (he/him)
Principal
Pacific Crest Middle School