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First name: Alice

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To all parties granting public input for consideration to make more trails & bikeways available to e-bike usage: On behalf of myself, my family & my parents, we wholeheartedly support this expansion to facilitate more inclusivity to those riders who without assistance would not normally be able to bike to & from work or school or participate in family biking outings because of physical or health limitations. My parents are in their 70s & the ability for them to benefit from assistance makes it more possible for them join the entire family on all-day outings & picnics without compromising or jeopardizing their health. My father has COPD & my teenage nephew is asthmatic-without the assistance they can't enjoy the same outdoor bike activities that the rest of us can. Additionally, my 15YO niece recently got a job at Market of Choice in Bend yet lives several miles away, up & down very steep hills. She has the ability to take trails to shorten her ride as opposed to normal street-side bike lanes but should she be allowed to take her bike on allowable trails, she could cut her commute time in half & also not arrive at work exhausted & sweaty. With expanded yet defined rules & open minds, I do believe we could all support further expansion to be more inclusive of those who need assistance in biking rather than leaving those in need out of the majority's trail access. I like to call it "leveling the playing field" for everyone to participate. Thank you for the opportunity to comment!

Kindly,

Alice Toler & Family

Bend, OR