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First name: David

Last name: Aldrighetti

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a life long Vermont resident and an avid mountain biker. I am 60 years old and ride with an age group of 30 thru 70. We all ride ebikes. I truly believe that ebikes are just what the government has classified them as "pedal assist bicycles". Our group rides more than ever in the past and get out to enjoy nature-being outside-fitness and friendship along with many other traits. All the negativity that I see and read about ebikes boils down to one thing, lack of understanding of them. We go no faster than the younger generation on the full carbon fiber bikes and definitely slower downhill! I have witnessed ebiking open up outside activities to so many more people in the last couple years. I ride the local trails a lot and am still amazed at how few people really ride in the woodlands. I do believe that only class 1 ebikes belong in this category. We pedal hard to get to a lot of spots and enjoy it more than I ever thought possible. I have witnessed 2 close friends who gave up road biking because of age and danger now totally embracing mountain biking with an ebike. They have the spark and passion back in their eyes that they had decades ago and what more could an "old guy" ask for in life. I do hope that you allow ebikes wherever regular pedal bikes are allowed. I also believe that in the near future you will see it all blend together like it has in Europe. They went thru the same "differences" we are experiencing now and have settled into acceptance of all in most cases. There will always be the "haters" in everything in life but I don't believe that their dislike of something be the cause to not allow it. The Rochester (Vermont) Ranger Station is a prime example, we ride the trails there a lot as they connect to a large series of club (RASTA) and private trails. The amount of people that ride them is very minimal as its tough pedaling. Ebiking has opened it up a little bit but so much room for more people to enjoy the woods! I hope that you see fit to open up bicycle trails to ebikes. In a short amount of time most of the controversy will go away so lets embrace it and get people outside enjoying it and getting some really good fitness in at the same time. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and reaching out for comments.