

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2020 3:30:04 PM

First name: robert

Last name: mittelstaedt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Class 1 ebikes are bicycles and should be treated the same. This should not depend on the whim of local managers. Ebikes riders tend to be older, more careful and more courteous than other bicyclists. We should not be punished on account of a small fraction of bicyclists who ride too fast and are discourteous. Ebikes permit us to recreate and live longer, healthier lives. So why the opposition to ebikes?

Irrational prejudice against ebikes comes from various sources. Some opponents don't like any kind of bikes, preferring exclusive use for their chosen form of recreation. That elitist view has no place in 21st Century America. Some younger bicyclists say "earn your elevation"--but if they are lucky enough to live as long as we have, they too will want ebikes in time. Their uber-competitive view of biking is no reason to deny us the continued pleasure of riding. Some opponents clothe themselves as environmentalists. But the reality is that ebikes have no material incremental impact on the environment. Indeed, because we tend to go slower with age, we may well have less impact.

As to speed, we preserve our small batteries going downhill; gravity is all you need downhill; so we go no faster in that direction than other bikes. And on most uphill routes, our motors help us stay up with other bikes rather than going faster. Again, preserving battery keeps us from speeding uphill. The way to regulate speed is by speed limits, just like cars on the road.

For further information, see the Resources page on our website, [ebikeaccess.org](http://ebikeaccess.org)

Thanks