



peopleforbikes™

P.O. Box 2359 Boulder, CO 80306

PeopleForBikes.org / 303.449.4893

November 15, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As the leading U.S. companies that manufacture, distribute and sell bicycles, parts and accessories, we are disappointed that the Senate Committee on Finance tax reform proposal would eliminate the \$20-per-month bicycle commuter transportation benefit.

Bicycling provides Americans an inexpensive and increasingly popular mode of transportation. During the last decade, bicycle commuting to work has grown by more than 50 percent nationwide. Critical to this growth has been the bicycle commuter transportation benefit, which offers commuters a small financial incentive - less than 10-percent of what is offered for car parking, transit, and carpooling - that helps offset the cost of maintaining a bicycle and obtaining the necessary equipment.

The annual cost of the bicycle commuter benefit to the federal treasury is approximately \$5 million. The benefits to both individuals and communities far exceed the cost. For example, growth in commuting by bicycle contributes to reducing traffic congestion, promotes good health and supports a low-cost mode of transportation for all Americans.

The bicycle industry generates an \$88 billion U.S. economic footprint that supports 770,000 jobs coast to coast. We employ people working in engineering, marketing, research and development, management, and sales. More than 16 million bicycles were sold in the United States last year. A large portion of the bicycle industry is small business owners. We are concerned that the elimination of the bicycle commuter benefit could push some current bicycle commuters back to their cars, thus increasing rush hour congestion while slowing the job-creating growth of the bicycle industry.

As Congress continues to debate comprehensive tax reform, we ask that you support the continuation of the bicycle commuter benefit.

Sincerely,

PeopleForBikes Board of Directors



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