

**House Bill 250 Testimony**  
**Laura Estandia, Executive Director, Bike Miami Valley**

Greetings Mr. or Ms. Chairman and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 250. My name is Laura Estandia, and I am the Executive Director of Bike Miami Valley. Our mission is to advocate, promote and create opportunities for bicycling in our region. Today, I testify in support of House Bill 250 because it supports the local bike economy and it makes bicycling more accessible to more people.

Every two years, our organization hosts the Miami Valley Cycling Summit that aims to use the power of cycling to drive economic development in communities both large and small throughout the region. This bill provides our local retailers with classifications and uses of various types of e-bikes. So then, retailers can match an interested customer with the right e-bike for their type of use, be it a long commute or a recreational trail use. Once this bill passes, our organization is committed to providing that type of education locally to retailers on the various classes of e-bikes.

The Miami Valley is also home to the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network. We want this network to be perceived as a welcoming place for all types of trail users. House Bill 250 is attractive because it is standard legislation that is used across the country, and as we market this regional asset to tourists, consistent legislation about e-bikes will be important for attracting these dollars to our trails.

Finally, equity and accessibility are core tenants of our organization's values. Our organization and our board recognize that not everyone comes to bicycling with the same level of fitness. We believe e-bikes reach an audience of people who wish to stay in the sport longer, and it reaches individuals who see the distance or terrain of their commute as a barrier to bicycling more often. E-bikes are already out there. They are being sold online to people in the Miami Valley and across the state. This summer, our organization offered bike valet parking services to festivals along the trail. At one of those events, I got to meet Harry and Martha, who rode up on his pedal assist bicycle and her pedal assist tricycle, respectively. I watched them yield to pedestrians and follow the rules of the trail as they approached our tent. They were overjoyed to talk to us about their e-bikes. "The trike helps keep me balanced and when I get tired, I use the pedal assist to help me get home," was how Martha described her use of the e-trike. The e-bikes allow Martha and Harry to enjoy a higher quality of life that they might not otherwise get to enjoy.

Our trails and streets should be inclusive and not exclusive to users who have different needs. For this reason and the economic benefits, Bike Miami Valley supports House Bill 250.