

Secretary David Bernhardt  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Re: Support of “National Park Service; General Provisions; Electric Bicycles” (Docket No. NPS-2020-0001-0001)

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

My name is Joseph Jakuta and I am citizen living in the state of Maryland just outside of the District of Columbia. I am also a father of two, a Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA) supporter, and recently became a co-owner of an electric pedal assist bike. I am writing in support of “National Park Service; General Provisions; Electric Bicycles” (85 FR 19711, April 8, 2020).

This regulatory proposal is most important to me as someone that travels in Washington, DC via bicycle. I often have to enter National Park Service managed properties, such as the National Mall or Rock Creek Park, and being able to legally ride the electric assist bike is vital to being able to travel safely. I am happy that you are proposing a regulation that would make the ability to do that certain.

At this point I have now visited thirteen of the National Parks. Of all of those trips my visit to Acadia National Park was one of the most pleasant. We rented two bikes and a trailer and took my very young child on the carriage trails. However at this point, with two much larger children, this adventure would be far less accessible to using a conventional bicycle. This new regulation would allow for such a trip to occur and I am thankful for that.

More holistically though electric bikes are a pollution free alternative to gasoline powered vehicles. Their use in the National Park System is important for two reasons. Many people visiting National Parks are participating in physical activity which can be hampered by exposure to air pollution from vehicles, which in turn can lead to negative health impacts such as asthma attacks. Using zero emissions electric bikes do not lead to such problems. Secondly it is a goal of the National Park System to achieve natural visibility conditions in many of the National Parks (the Class I Areas) by 2064. Since oxides of Nitrogen from vehicles leads to formation of ammonium nitrates, which impair visibility, reducing air pollution from vehicles in National Parks is necessary. Allowing more flexibility to use e-bikes will help make these air quality goals a reality.

I am excited to see this regulatory proposal and do hope that it is adopted as a final rule.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Jakuta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Joseph Jakuta  
Mount Rainier, MD

