



peopleforbikes

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March 20, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

PeopleForBikes recognizes the unprecedented challenge you, your staff and California residents face in managing the spread of COVID-19. We respect the gravity of this worldwide crisis, commend you for your leadership and wish you and your constituents the best possible health outcomes. We stand ready to help.

In the state of California, PeopleForBikes represents 140 bicycle businesses and more than 2,350 retail locations. **We are writing to ask you to join the growing group of government leaders who have recognized the indispensable roles of bicycling and bike stores during this crisis, by designating bicycling as an essential activity and bike shops as essential businesses.**

PeopleForBikes is the national trade association representing companies that manufacture and distribute bicycles, bicycle parts and bicycle accessories. Our foundation branch is supported by 1.3 million individuals. The U.S. bicycle business contributes \$88 billion annually to our economy and supports more than 780,000 jobs. Bicycling moves people efficiently and keeps people active and healthy.

Please consider the following points as you designate **essential activities** and **essential businesses**:

- Bicycling continues to be an essential transportation mode for many Americans, particularly those who don't own cars--more than 10% of U.S. adults.
- People are riding bikes now to respect social distancing protocols. Transit modes and ride sharing can't guarantee the same protections.
- Half the trips Americans traditionally make are three miles or less. Today, as more people work from home and avoid lengthy commutes, more trips are short, and these are easily completed by bike.
- Local bike shops support these essential trips by providing community services similar to auto repair shops or gas stations.
- Bicycling provides significant physical and mental health benefits that can counter the downsides of social isolation.
- The clear designation of bicycle shops as essential businesses and bicycling as a permitted outdoor activity will provide clarity and relief to citizens and enforcement officials.

Many local governments have already led the way by making these designations--notably [Philadelphia](#), PA, [Santa Clara County](#), CA and [Contra Costa County](#), CA.

Designating bicycling and bike stores as essential will help address the present public health crisis while fulfilling your mandate to keep the citizens of your state free from undue harm. You will ensure that basic transportation options remain available and you will provide appropriate support to small businesses.

Best wishes,

Tim Blumenthal
President, PeopleForBikes