

# **BICYCLE FACTS**



## **Bicycling Appeals to All Americans:**

- 87 million Americans ride bicycles, 27.8 million in the South. (Outdoor Industry Association)
- 481,441 adults in South Carolina ride bicycles at least once a month. (America Bikes)
- There are more bicyclists in the U.S. than skiers, golfers and tennis players combined. (National Sporting Goods Association)

### Bicycling is Good for the Economy:

- The U.S. Bicycle Industry sold \$6.2 billion in bicycles and equipment (retail value) in 2005. (National Sporting Goods Association)
- The U.S. bicycle industry employs approximately 100,000 people in research & development, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sales and service.

  (Bikes Belong Coalition)
- The Hawley Company, Inc. (one of the largest wholesale distributers in the bicycle industry) based in Lexington, SC, does over \$13 million in annual sales. Its customer base includes over 80 independent business operators (primarily bike shops) in South Carolina. (Letter of support for H3006 from Steve Hawley, owner and president of The Hawley Company, Inc.)

#### More Bicycling Means Less Dependence on Foreign Oil & a Cleaner Environment:

- Based on gas prices of \$3 per gallon, the annual cost of owning, operating and driving a passenger car 15,000 miles is nearly \$11,000 (It costs approximately \$120 a year to maintain a bicycle). (American Automobile Association)
- A four-mile commuting round trip by bicycle (instead of automobile) keeps about 15 pounds of pollutants out of the air we breathe. (World Watch Institute)
- The U.S. could save 262 millions of gallons of gasoline a year by increasing bicycling from 1% to 1.5% of all trips. (Chicago Bicycle Federation, Bike Traffic)
- One in 12 U.S. households does not own an automobile. (2001 NHTS)

#### More Bicycling Means Better Health:

- In one generation, the percentage of U.S. children who walk or bike to school has dropped by 70%. Childhood obesity has tripled. (Centers for Disease Control)
- Just three hours of bicycling per week can reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke by 50%. (League of American Bicyclists)