



# 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 distributors 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)