

To Whom it May Concern,

I just wanted to write to you about the impact that James had on my younger self. I am not a POC but James had a profound impact on the whole direction my life has taken. I was living (and still living) life with a disability and didn't know if I could make it in the industry. While he was working at Road 34 in Fort Collins, I met him while I was in my teens around 2017. James always took time out of his busy day to talk bikes with me and encourage a career in the bike industry. When other industry folks maybe didn't believe in my commitment to working in the industry, James had complete confidence in me. Listening to his stories and his journey through life as the first black pro mountain biker was inspiring and I looked up to him as a voice in the bike community. James is the one who made me realize I could make it.

Fast forward five years, I am now working for one of the most well-known and respected companies in the whole industry. James and his legacy means a lot to me and I want his story to continue to inspire future generations. His induction to the MTB Hall of Fame is a no-brainer and I can't believe it's taken this long. We as people of the bike industry have a moral obligation to continue to expand access to careers and opportunities in this amazing path of life, and James' legacy being cemented like this will assist that goal greatly.

Best,

Cy Foppe

Bicycle Marketing Coordinator

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