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February 13, 2019

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Capitol, S-411  
900 Court St., N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2314

Dear Co-Chairs, Beyer and McKeown, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I am the Western States Representative for the American Motorcyclist Association and was very involved with the California effort (A.B. 51) to formalize and codify lane splitting, which was passed and signed into law in 2016. I also serve on the California Motorcycle Safety Program advisory committee and the associated lane splitting subcommittee. As a rider myself, I hope to share my perspective and experiences with this often controversial and misunderstood topic.

Lane splitting (or filtering), when done under the accepted “best practices” recognized in the California Highway Patrol guidelines, is not only a benefit to the riding community, but also allows all road users to arrive sooner to their chosen destinations. The key factor identified in the U.C. Berkley study was the speed delta—the speed differential between the motorcyclist and surrounding traffic. As indicated by the lead researcher, Dr. Thomas Rice, a delta of 15 mph or less, up to a surrounding traffic speed of 50 mph, did not result in any associated changes to injury types or occurrence rates.

I feel that H.B. 2314, which is more conservative than the practices identified in the Berkeley study, is an excellent opportunity for this practice to be introduced in Oregon.

The AMA places significant emphasis on motorcycle operator and passenger safety. On every type of public roadway, motorcyclists encounter challenges from other roadway users and are constantly vigilant to potentially unsafe conditions around them.

Perhaps one of the most dangerous situations for any on-highway motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go vehicles, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators and environmental conditions pose an increased risk of physical contact with another vehicle or hazard. Even minor contact under such conditions can be disastrous for motorcyclists.

In many countries, lane splitting is considered a normal practice for motorcycle and scooter riders. Particularly in the highly urbanized areas of Europe and Asia, riders are expected to pass between conventional vehicles and advance to the front of the group.

Efforts to formally legalize and recognize lane splitting/filtering are under consideration in many states during the 2019 legislative sessions.

The AMA fully supports H.B. 2314 and requests the committee endorse its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Haris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas Haris  
Western States Representative