

To who it may concern,

I am writing in support of the passage of SB 694A that provides a legal means for motorcyclists to filter through traffic on roads with a 50+ mph posted limit where the traffic is either stopped or moving less than 10mph.

I am a life long motorcycle rider, a father of two girls, and an Architect in Portland. I truly believe that the passage of this bill will provide safer roads for motorcyclists as well as improving traffic flow in an already over congested road system.

Numerous studies have shown that lane filtering creates a safer and smoother flowing road system.

The Hurt Report¹, the most comprehensive motorcycle crash causation study to date, noted that, "Moderate or heavy traffic was the situation at 59.2% of the accidents [studied]." Reducing a motorcyclist's exposure to vehicles that are frequently accelerating and decelerating on congested roadways can be one way to reduce front- and rear-end collisions for those most vulnerable in traffic.

And

One of the recommendations in the National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety (NAMS)² is: "Study the safety implications of lane splitting." In support of this recommendation, the report states:

"A motorcycle's narrow width can allow it to pass between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars on roadways where the lanes are wide enough to offer an adequate gap. This option can provide an escape route for motorcyclists who would otherwise be trapped or struck from behind. There is evidence (Hurt, 1981) that traveling between lanes of stopped or slow-moving cars (i.e., lane splitting) on multiple-lane roads (such as interstate highways) slightly reduces crash frequency compared with staying within the lane and moving with other traffic.

"Although lane splitting is allowed in just a few areas of the United States, notably California, it appears to be worthy of further study because it offers a means of reducing congestion in addition to possible safety benefits. It is widely used in many other countries."

Source: <http://americanmotorcyclist.com/rights/positionstatements/lanesplitting.aspx>

In conclusion, I urge the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development to pass SB 694A to help insure the safety of motorcyclists by reducing accidents and promoting a safer and freer flowing highway system.

Colton Cabler
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