I respectfully urge your support on HB2314.

Legal prescribed lane sharing and filtering for motorcyclists increases motorcyclist safety and can help reduce traffic on busy roadways. This bill would benefit all drivers on some Oregon's heavily congested roadways.

I am sure you have experienced sitting in traffic, seeing many of the drivers around you on their phones, gazing at their infotainment displays or otherwise engaged in some incredibly dangerous inattentive practice, not safely operating their vehicle. Now imagine being a motorcyclist on one of our highly congested roads and wondering if the person coming up behind you is watching a youtube video when he should be paying attention to the fact that you are actually 15 feet behind that dump truck they just briefly registered when they last glimpsed up from the phone in their lap. I have consistently observed that the slower the traffic flow, the more I see car & truck drivers are likely to engage in highly distracted driving practices. This is exactly the time and place I do not want to be at the mercy of chance; lane splitting and filtering puts me in control of my safety.

The option to legal lane split and filter could also help reduce some of the very unsafe and illegal practices that I observe some motorcyclists engage in currently like riding up the shoulder of the highway or unpredictably weaving through slowed traffic.

I already choose to engage in defensive driving practices and wear well over a thousand dollars in personal protective gear (helmet, dedicated CE rated armored jacket, armored pants, armored gloves & armored boots). I would greatly appreciate the choice of lane splitting and filtering, to be employed where/when legal & at a safe speed, to increase my safety on the road.

We are fortunate in this region to have a mild winter and long riding season relative to other areas. I ride my motorcycle to commute to work every day I am able; it is more fuel & space efficient on the road than a car or truck & preferred parking for motorcycles is available at my work. Due to my home and work locations, public transportation would actually increase my commute time unacceptably; in short, I will either be in a car or on a motorcycle 5 days a week. My AM commute averages 25-30 minutes while in the afternoon and evening it incredibly increases to 55-60 minutes & there are days it exceeds an hour. In the summer, that includes boiling in the heat while sitting in stop and go traffic (remember all that safety gear). The ability to lane split and filter would have a dramatic impact on my commute at no expense or inconvenience to other drivers on the road.

Many non-motorcyclists' first reaction to lane splitting and filtering is one of negativity. However I have found almost every time, after just briefly discussing the benefits of safe & legal splitting and filtering practices, they have a much different opinion. I hope that when you consider the benefits of HB2314

for the motorcyclists and drivers of Oregon, you too will enthusiastically support this bill and urge your colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.