

**February 18, 2019**

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Oregon State Capitol  
H-476 900 Court Street N.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: House Bill 2314** - Allows operator of motorcycle or moped to travel between lanes of traffic under certain conditions

Dear Chairman and committee members:

I am writing in support of HB2314 and ask for your sincere consideration on the positive impact that passing this bill will provide, specifically to the metro areas of Oregon. Per a recent news article, Portland has the 10<sup>th</sup> worst traffic in the country. With the increase in high-density building and no expansion of the current public transportation system, traffic will become increasing unbearable. As a motorcyclist, sitting in traffic exposes me to a multitude of dangers – waiting to be hit like a sitting duck, sitting behind a truck/car inhaling exhaust, and overheating of myself and my bike during warmer weather. This bill will encourage motorcyclists to start riding during high density traffic times and increase awareness to drivers that they need to share the road with motorcyclists.

In addition to decreasing vehicles on the road and helping to reduce traffic, motorcycles emit far less greenhouse gas emissions than cars. As an environmentalist, I encourage the state to enact legislation that would encourage a less impactful way to commute. This would support Oregon's commitment to combating climate change and immediately begin to improve the air quality of the metro areas. Per air quality mapping data, Portland has some of the worst air quality in the world. Immediate improvements to this can be made through the reduction of passenger vehicles and the encouragement to opt for a less impactful form of transportation – motorcycles.

This is not a new radical concept and exists in several countries and now is the time for Oregon to be the second state to legalize this safe and rational traffic law. California provides an excellent framework and example of the benefits of lane splitting. As a former California resident, my husband and I commuted to work. My husband commuted to work for over 12 years on a motorcycle. Not once was he involved in an accident as a result of lane splitting – actually to the contrary – he was rear-ended at a red light when not able to sit in the clearance area between the two lanes of traffic.

Some of the testimony that the committee has received in the past in opposition to the house bill was provided by individuals that most likely have never been on a motorcycle and have no

understanding of the dangers of sitting in traffic. I hope you will seriously consider the input from motorcyclists that are hoping to have more access to **safely and efficiently** riding to and from work, during high traffic times.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bernardini, P.E.  
Motorcyclist, Environmentalist, Engineer, Law Student