

I strongly support bill SB574 and encourage you to as well. Three years ago, I was rear-ended while riding a motorcycle in stop and go traffic on I5 between I84 and the Rose Quarter in Portland. Thankfully, I was not significantly injured, but my motorcycle on the other hand was a total loss. It took me many months to come back from this incident and around 5 months until my vehicle of transportation was replaced due to the insurance claim. I strongly believe that in this scenario I would have been able to avoid being hit from the rear, if lane sharing and filtering were legal in Oregon. The ability to stop and pass on the side or in between full sized cars is imperative to the safety of riders and this has been well demonstrated in states like California and Utah where similar laws have been in place for many years. I personally know 2 or 3 other riders who have similarly been rear-ended while operating their motorcycles and I can assure you that every single person I know that rides or has ridden a motorcycle would endorse this bill. The saddest thing to us, as operators of motorcycles, is that laws similar to the proposed bill have not been passed simply because those lobbying for them do not understand what it is like to ride a motorcycle. The idea of lane splitting, sharing, or filtering feels foreign because you are not used to it. Please attempt to put yourself in OUR shoes and try to empathize with us and our extreme vulnerability while on the road operating a motorcycle. I believe that if everyone was forced to ride on one for a day in the city and/or traffic, this bill would be passed unanimously. Since that is impossible to do, I simply ask that you PLEASE think about OUR safety and not only about the "uncomfortability" other drivers may experience due to seeing motorcycles between lanes. Drivers will adjust and in the meantime, lives will be saved.