

15 January 2021

Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: Senate Bill 166

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Senator Boquist and Representative Noble, and members of the committee:

I urge you not to let this bill pass out of Committee.

The Roman historian Tacitus said centuries ago, "the more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws." Importantly, that maxim is still true today and this bill is an example of it; the never-ending creep of the power of our nanny state minders insinuating itself into every little detail of our lives.

Several studies show that night driving—not daylight driving—is ranked as the highest fatality rate for drivers and pedestrians.

ODOT reported that 2018 set a record number of motorcycle deaths. Daylight operation of motorcycle headlights has been in affect for decades. Forcing drivers to have vehicle headlights on, under penalty of fines, is not going to solve any driving problems.

As my father often told me when I was learning to drive, "*He was right as right as he drove along, but just as dead as if he'd been wrong.*" This legislation fails to recognize the most important safety feature of an automobile, the driver. Having headlights on will not protect one against stupidity, or drunks or fools or idiots.

Again, shelve this bill and move on to more important legislation.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner