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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

February 26, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer
900 Court St. NE
State Capitol, Room S-411
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Susan McLain
900 Court St. NE
State Capitol, Room H-477
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Brian Boquist
900 Court St. NE
State Capitol, Room S-311
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Ronald H. Noble
900 Court St. NE
State Capitol, Room H-380
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 574

Dear Sens. Beyer and Boquist, Reps. McLain and Noble:

I am the Western States Representative for the American Motorcyclist Association and was very involved with the California effort, A.B. 51, to formalize and codify lane splitting. The bill passed and was signed into law in 2016. A similar effort was undertaken in Utah in 2019, resulting in the passing of House Bill 149, which also allows lane filtering in certain circumstances. I have included a copy of a recent letter from Rep. Walt Brooks of Utah, the bill's primary sponsor, outlining the experiences observed since its passage.

Perhaps one of the more dangerous situations for any on-highway motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go vehicles, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators and environmental conditions pose an increased risk of physical contact with another vehicle or hazard. Even minor contact under such conditions can be disastrous for motorcyclists.

The key factor identified in the most recent study on the subject by U.C. Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center, was the speed delta—the difference in speed between the motorcyclist and surrounding traffic. As indicated by the lead researcher, Dr. Thomas Rice, a delta of 15 mph or less, up to a surrounding traffic speed of 50 mph, did not result in any associated changes to injury types or occurrence rates.

The AMA believes that S.B. 574, which proposes significantly more conservative limits than the practices identified in the study, is an excellent opportunity for this practice to be introduced in Oregon.

In many countries, lane splitting is considered a normal practice for motorcycle and scooter riders. Particularly in the highly urbanized areas of Europe and Asia, riders are expected to pass between conventional vehicles and advance to the front of the group.

The AMA fully supports S.B. 574 and requests your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Haris', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Nicholas Haris