

Committee members,

I respectfully request your support of SB574. While the opposition to this bill will certainly include scare tactics and cite the dangers of speeding, weaving, and doing wheelies in between cars, I ask that you consider the reality of a bill that helps keep riders safely away from the many distracted drivers that we all know are on the roads each day. For many in Oregon, a motorcycle is a means of transportation to get to and from work each day. When a rider stops at a stop light, our vulnerability to distracted drivers begins and we are at risk of being rear ended by someone who 'doesn't see us'. Because a motorcycle is smaller in footprint, we can move around and actually get out of harms way if we have a legal means by which to safely navigate to the front of an intersection carefully, remain in between cars and thus protected from a rear end collision, and then safely accelerate away from the intersection and keep traffic flowing. When you decide, please do so with an open mind, and just remember that Oregon was once a proud innovator of forward thinking ideas that directly benefit your constituents. Thank you for your time.