Hello and good morning. I am an avid Oregon motorcyclist and I enthusiastically support SB 574. Why wouldn't I, after all, as it would benefit me and all motorcyclists, reduce congestion, and incentivize motorcycling, which as a side benefit reduces greenhouse gas emissions as motorcycles are on average much more fuel efficient than cars.

During the course of testimony today, you will hear arguments made against the proposal based solely on safety. You may hear from law enforcement agencies, perhaps even AAA which have both voiced opposition. I implore you to carefully consider any such arguments. What evidence is there for their claims? Is any of the arguments data-driven, or are they anectdotal? Do they have any studies to point to to support their claims? Don't be surprised if all you hear are crickets.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the practice is common in many other countries and worthy of further study "because it offers a means of reducing congestion in addition to possible safety benefits." They go on:

"[lane-splitting] can provide an escape route for motorcyclists who would otherwise be trapped or struck from behind." This is a scenario that all motorcyclists dread… stopped at a stop light behind other cars and getting rear-ended (source https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2018/02/09/motorcycle-lane-splitting-safe-or-scary).

But don't take the NHTSA's word for it. A study from Berkley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (aka SafeTREC) in 2015 found that California's lane-splitting may make motorcycling more safe. The following is a quote of a report on the study:

"Also compared with other motorcyclists involved in a collision, lane-splitting riders were less likely to suffer head injury (9 percent versus 17 percent), torso injury (19 percent versus 29 percent) and fatal injury (1.2 percent versus 3 percent)."

Source: https://news.berkeley.edu/2015/05/29/motorcycle-lanesplitting-report/

At the end of the day, we have to decide whether we make important decisions like these based on science and facts, or conjecture and speculation. We've seen with the pandemic already the horrible consequences of ignoring reason and science. Please don't make that mistake with this issue.