

Dear Senators... I am writing in support of SB574. I am a 51 year old native Oregonian and a motorcyclist who has been riding on the street since I was 18. In the 90's, I lived in Sacramento, California, for two years. During that time, I learned, first hand, the benefits of lane sharing/lane splitting. Anyone who has ever spent time in the Sacramento area knows how hot the spring, summer and early fall are there. In hot weather, legal lane splitting allowed me to continue moving even in stand still rush hour traffic, which both shortened my commute time and allowed air movement inside my riding gear to keep me cooler. As well, my movement between lanes, and the movement of other motorcycles between lanes, reduced the overall commute for everyone stuck in the traffic since motorcycles were not taking up the same space as a car.

As a life long motorcyclist and as someone who has lived in the Portland metro area for the majority of my life, I can attest that lane splitting or lane filtering is a safer option for motorcyclists. In or around 2003, I was rear-ended while waiting at a stoplight during rush hour traffic. Even though all of my lights were working and I had my brake light activated, an inattentive driver struck me from behind because they were paying more attention to the traffic light that had just turned green some 4 or 5 cars in front of me than they were to the still stopped motorcycle that was waiting for traffic to begin moving through the intersection. I wholeheartedly believe that had I been allowed to filter to the front that I would have never been hit by this driver and that my lower back problems would not be as bad as they are today.

In closing, I thank you for reading my testimony and I encourage you to move this bill out of committee and into the senate for a vote. Lane splitting/sharing/filtering makes commuting safer for motorcyclists and lessens traffic congestion. In a time when the fuel efficiency of motorcycles can help lessen the burden of climate change, it only makes sense to allow lane sharing. It will help everyone in the long run.

With regards,

Lyle Brown