

Hello,

I am writing to request that you support SB 574. I am a motorcyclist, born in Oregon, living in Portland, and I ride for both pleasure and commuting. Lane sharing would greatly increase my safety on our freeways. A few years ago I was hit on I84 while riding by an aggressive driver "lane jumping" into what he perceived to be a gap in the traffic. Even at the relatively low speeds of congested traffic my bike was totaled and I was left with road rash and scars even while wearing proper gear.

If lane sharing had been legal at this time I would not have been in a "no man's land" between two larger vehicles and would not have been hit. Lane sharing would have allowed me to better position myself in the flow of traffic and avoid becoming invisible to less than attentive drivers- a subset of drivers that will always exist.

I have used responsible lane sharing techniques while visiting friends in the Los Angeles and have found the practice widely accepted and expected. In California, where lane sharing is legal, there does not seem to be the sense of unfairness that I have anecdotal heard of here. I believe that once lane sharing is legalized in Oregon, drivers will accept it as part of the way our highways function. Meaning, motorcyclists won't be "getting away with something" anymore. Lane sharing will be just another way our citizens get around.

Like bicycles, or buses, motorcycles are different than cars. Each type of vehicle has it's capabilities and limitations- both as a machine and in relation to the law and infrastructure. Most Oregonians choose four-wheels for their mode of transport. Those of us who choose two have right to the same consideration of our safety that those who choose cars or bicycles or tiny Smart cars do. Meaning- motorcycling is perceived as dangerous, and it is in some respects, but to use it's inherent risks as relative to cars as a reason to deny safer laws for motorcyclists is unfair as it does not recognize societies responsibility toward safety for all- for example consider what Oregon cities are doing for bicyclists.

I want to thank you for listening to my testimony and I hope that you will support SB 574 and see it into law.

Thank you.
Ben Buswell