

Respected members of the Joint Transportation Committee-

I urge the Joint Transportation Committee to please support SB574.

I'm a lifelong motorcyclist, a regular motorcycle commuter, and year-round rider. I'm an Oregon native that has done a stint of living in California where motorcycle lane sharing is legal, and I've experienced the benefits of lane sharing firsthand. I also personally commute daily on I-5, I-405, and the Sunset Highway in high traffic congestion.

Lane sharing motorcycles are a huge step in the right direction to alleviate the worsening congestion in Oregon--especially in Portland, Salem, and congested metro areas. Lane sharing maximizes traffic lane availability and increases traffic flow.

As a motorcyclist that has been rear-ended in traffic, I find being able to ride between stop and go cars is an excellent means of defensive riding to prevent rear-end accidents or being sandwiched between stopping cars. This is especially true in the era of distracted driving we live in, when it is so easy for drivers to lapse attention and rear-end the vehicle in front of them.

I also truly believe that motorcycles are much more environmentally friendly, due to increased fuel economy and lower emissions, and lane sharing simply improves fuel economy further as it eliminates an idling vehicle in traffic.

I believe lane sharing is a safe practice that is a progressive solution to traffic congestion problems, and provides safety and defensive riding options to motorcyclists. Many countries around the world already use this practice to alleviate congestion and benefit the environment, and now the practice is gaining traction in the US—namely in Utah, and soon Montana.

Let's put Oregon on the map by being another US state to legalize this. I'm urging the committee to please support the bill.

Respectfully,

Kris Regentin

Oregon House District 43/Oregon Senate District 22 resident