

To whom it may concern,

As a motorcycle rider, safety is my biggest concern. I wear a helmet and all the gear all the time. I do not ever drink when I ride, I do not listen to music, or anything else, I am focused on staying alive and living to ride another day. I also have a wife, 2 kids, 2 brothers, and many friends that ride here in Oregon. While I am a native Oregonian, I have travelled in Europe and lived in California where lane sharing and filtering (Often referred to as "Lane Splitting") are practiced because of it's safety benefits as well as the benefits it provides against traffic congestion. Congestion in Oregon continues to get worse and allowing motorcycles to Filter and Share Lanes has proven to provide better traffic flow and to move more vehicles out of traffic more efficiently. If you support safety and mitigating traffic congestion I urge you to really investigate the evidence supporting lane sharing and to take the safety of motorcyclists as serious as most of us do.

The majority of arguments I hear against lane sharing are very ego centric and/or misguided. I never thought I would do it because I was concerned about the risks but, done properly, I found it to be much safer than sitting behind a car and waiting to get rear ended by someone looking at their phone. I have had this happen in a car and, had I been on my motorcycle, it would have been catastrophic. I've also seen more people able to get through an intersection when the motorcyclists all moved to the front and could accelerate away faster than cars do. Here in Oregon I often see several individual motorcyclists stuck in traffic jams in different places. If they were able to safely filter out of traffic it would increase the capacity of our roads to handle the traffic we currently have and would encourage more people to find alternative modes (Bicycles and Motorcycles) of transportation. Safe Lane Sharing and Filtering take place at low speeds, at speeds close to the flow of traffic, and should not take place when traffic is moving anywhere close to the posted speed.

The majority of people I currently see splitting lanes in Oregon are not doing it within the accepted safety guidelines. Preventing lane sharing will not stop these law breaking individuals from their reckless behavior (They should be photographed and cited). It only stops the safety conscious riders that are looking for ways to be safe, ease traffic congestion, and live to ride another day.

I will not reiterate the numerous studies and articles that provide evidence of the benefits of lane sharing because I believe those are being presented. Please do not punish those of that respect the laws and ride safely by ignoring the benefits of lane sharing and filtering. I respectfully request your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brit Andersen
West Linn, OR