

Senator Lee Bewer and Representative Susan McLain
Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation

March 1, 2021

RE: SB 574

Dear Chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee:

On June 30, 2015, I was riding my motorcycle in Portland, Oregon and was stopped in line on the northbound ramp to I-5 from Alberta Street. I was behind a number of cars waiting to be metered onto the freeway.

Without any warning I was suddenly struck from behind by a car with so much force that it pushed both me and my motorcycle under the car in front of me. The car continued to drive on and struck a barrier wall down the ramp with so much force that it broke the front wheel axle.

I was trapped underneath the running car and suffered burns to my face and body. My mouth was torn open and a tooth was broken. I ended up having a fractured vertebra, fractured hip and pelvis, three broken ribs, a bruised lung, lacerated liver, and multiple cuts and abrasions that required stitches. I had to undergo a long a painful rehabilitation process and still have not fully recovered.

This accident has changed my life forever. The driver of the car denied that he was on his cell phone at the time of the accident. Regardless he was reckless and obviously not focused on his driving.

My accident could have happened on I-5 North sitting behind a car stopped in traffic. Giving riders like me the option of filtering between lanes during traffic jams would help prevent the accident that I had from happening to other riders. I can tell you from personal experience that I would rather have a car change lanes in front of me without looking than to rear-end me into a car without looking. I urge the Committee to recommend passage of SB 574 to protect riders like me on highways and freeways and allow them to filter during traffic jams.

Thank you,

Dwight Gibbons
Florence, Oregon