

I come before you in support of SB 574. As a longtime motorcyclist I can attest to the danger of getting hit from behind in stop and go traffic. Sitting up high on a motorcycle makes it easy to notice that many people are still using cell phones while driving. It is unnerving to check my mirrors and see that the driver behind is on their phone in stop and go traffic. A rider who gets hit from behind and sandwiched between cars is much more likely to be hurt or seriously injured than a person in a car. Before Covid-19 I would drive once a week from home across Portland on highways 26, 405, 84, and 204. I also would travel on 217 once a week. I have seen the results of many rear end collisions that occurred in stop and go traffic. This is when a sensible driver would be paying strict attention to what is going on around them. Allowing motorcycles to filter in stop and go conditions would prevent inattentive drivers from hitting them from behind. Filtering at slow speed is much safer. California, the United Kingdom, and many other countries allow motorcycles to filter. There are other benefits such as reduced traffic congestion and fuel savings when motorcycles filter. The Portland metro area has serious traffic congestion problems that continues to worsen. Many motorcyclists, including myself, would ride our motorcycles instead of driving cars if filtering was permitted. Thank you.