

Hello Joint Transportation Committee,

I urge you to vote YES on SB574. I am a 33 year old man who has been riding motorcycles since I was 19, the vast majority of that time was while living in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm mentioning that because as I'm sure you know, California allows motorcyclists to lane share. Lane sharing is an indispensable utility that is part of riding a motorcycle but currently isn't allowed in Oregon which I think is a huge mistake. The benefits far outweigh risks and once the law is passed in Oregon allowing lane sharing anyone who is not comfortable doing it will not be forced to do it, but it allows motorcyclists who are able and willing to do it a much greater freedom, and helps reduce traffic congestion overall.

I ride motorcycles for fun, and I also have a car which I use for commuting to work, but in the past I have used a motorcycle as my sole mode of transportation. Part of the reason I did that was because while commuting to work from Oakland to San Francisco I was able to literally reduce my commute time by a third to a half, as well as save considerable on gas and insurance. The buildup of traffic on the highways is frustrating for everyone, but as roadways become ever more bogged down there is no need to force motorcyclists to add to the congestion. The more motorcyclists that aren't sitting in their cars in traffic is better for everyone, and in the unlikely event that there is an accident of some sort, the speeds are so low that the risk of severe injury is incredibly low. Part of the reason I use my car for commuting in the Portland area is because sitting in hot weather or in rain sucks and if I have to be stuck in traffic I would prefer A/C and a radio. But if I am able to lane share and my commute is along any of the many highways in the area, then I would without a doubt choose to ride my motorcycle if I could avoid pointlessly sitting in traffic. In all my years of riding motorcycles I have only had 2 close calls, and those were on city streets where cars didn't see me and cut me off. I have easily spent hundreds of hours riding around the Bay Area lane sharing and I have never had any close calls, or ever seen anyone in an accident because of it.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and again I hope that you will make the fair and common sense decision to vote YES on SB574.