

Paula Leslie – wildland firefighter and avid year round motorcyclist.

Letter to the Senate Judiciary committee for SB422

I ask that you please vote Aye for this bill, on the following motorcyclist safety premise, not commonly discussed.

My name is Paula Leslie, I am a wild land firefighter, and avid year long rider. I'm writing to draw attention to the fact that there are similar safety considerations that need to be made by a motorcyclist and wildland fire fighter, regarding being exposed the elements for long amounts of time.

Learning our own body's limits while braving the elements is key, in order to make it home safe under both circumstances. Team Oregon, motorcycle riding classes teach us this, as well.

There are health risks associated with riders sitting in traffic on a mtorocycle, that are comparable to impaired riding, (the same holds true with firefighting and situational awareness).

SB422 will allow us to find a safe way to manage the hazards associated with sitting in traffic that are known to create potential health hazards.

Physical and psychological risks of sitting in traffic

There is more to riding impaired, than being under the influence of intoxicants.

Motorcycle riders are exposed to the elements, leaving them vulnerable to the heat, cold, rain, dehydration, wind, and constant use of **S.I.P.D.E** crash avoidance riding skills (**Scan** for hazards, **Identify** hazard, **predict** worst case scenario, **Decide** what to do, **execute** plan), poor weather conditions, poor road conditions , frequent repeated, gear changes, and general fatigue of operating the motorcycle for long durations with little rest.

Risks associated with physical fatigue to the rider:

Tiredness, cramping in the hands/arms, neck, back, legs, feet, eyes, our whole body.

In a car, you can move around and stretch. On a motorcycle, you just have to endure it

Risks associated with mental fatigue to the rider:

Slower reaction time, difficulty maintaining speed, difficulty braking and shifting, loosing control of the bike, and running off the road.

If that's not enough, my motorcycle exhaust burns a hole in all my riding pants, on my right leg below the knee if I keep my foot down too long.



