

Submitter: IAN WAGNER  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3542

As a responsible motorcyclist and resident of Hillsboro, Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for the legalization of lane splitting—the practice of motorcyclists riding between lanes of slow-moving or stopped traffic. I urge you to consider supporting legislation that would make this safety-enhancing, traffic-efficient practice legal and regulated in our state.

In Oregon, as in many parts of the country, our roads are becoming increasingly congested. As someone who rides regularly, I can personally attest to how dangerous it is for motorcyclists to be caught in standstill traffic, especially when we are essentially sitting targets for distracted drivers who may not see us until it's too late. Rear-end collisions are a leading cause of injury for motorcyclists—and lane splitting offers a practical, proven way to reduce that risk.

Research conducted by the University of California Berkeley found that motorcyclists who split lanes in congested traffic are significantly less likely to be rear-ended and, when involved in accidents, tend to suffer less severe injuries. California has already legalized lane splitting with great success, and Oregon should be next.

Lane splitting also:

Improves traffic flow, allowing motorcycles to move out of the way and free up space in lanes.

Reduces vehicle emissions, by cutting down idle times for both motorcycles and cars.

Encourages safer riding behaviors, by giving riders a lawful, predictable alternative to risky weaving or sudden lane changes.

When regulated with clear guidelines—for example, limiting lane splitting to speeds under 30 mph and only in traffic moving under 20 mph—this practice can be safely integrated into Oregon's traffic laws.

I respectfully urge you to support legislation to legalize lane splitting in Oregon. It is a policy grounded in common sense, rider safety, and environmental benefits, and it would represent a meaningful improvement for motorcyclists like myself and the broader commuting public.

Thank you for your time, attention, and service to our great state.

Sincerely,  
Ian Wagner  
Hillsboro, Oregon  
Motorcycle Enthusiast & Responsible Rider