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

Hello.

I am an endorsed rider of nearly 3 years and I regularly commute in Portland traffic. I ride whenever I can because it's more efficient than commuting in my car. I strongly support HB3542 as lane filtering in bumper-to-bumper traffic alleviates a fair bit of danger that motorcyclists/scooter riders face and eases overall congestion at scale. Sitting in stopped traffic while seeing a navigable space between lanes is the legal thing to do, but it forces riders to occupy more space in traffic than they would otherwise need. Navigating between lanes in stopped or slowed traffic opens up a spot in traffic for 4+ wheeled vehicles that require the entire width of the lane. This means more people get where they're going sooner than they otherwise would. This is the ultimate goal of public roads.

On top of getting riders where they're going faster; filtering leaves their clutch hands less tired, and prevents overheating (especially for air-cooled bikes). Motorcycles not overheating in gridlocked traffic curbs increased congestion from breakdowns.

Should responsibly lane filtering in stopped/slowed traffic be normalized at scale, it exists as an incentive to get commuters out of their cars and on to motorcycles/scooters. This means people use less gasoline, exert less wear on road surfaces, and put less CO2 into the air, all especially so at scale.

Personally, I also often get anxious that I may be rear-ended in traffic and go under a larger vehicle's tires. I believe that I speak for most riders when saying that I'd prefer to be sideswiped or narrowly-missed in a rear-end collision between two cars in traffic, as opposed to being in the zone of impact between two much larger vehicles. Being between lanes takes me out of this catastrophe.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that we can join California, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Montana, Hawaii, Minnesota, and other places around the world in legalizing lane filtering/splitting in a responsible manner.