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*AmericanMotorcyclist.com*

April 1, 2025

Senator Chris Gorsek  
900 Court St. NE, S-403  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Rep. Susan McLain  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3542

Dear Chair Gorsek, Chair McLain, Vice Chair Starr, Vice Chair Davis and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Motorcyclist Association and was very involved with the initial 2016 California effort, Assembly Bill 51, to formalize and codify lane sharing. Since then, similar legislation has been enacted in numerous states, including most recently in Minnesota (which takes effect on July 1, 2025), as well as in Colorado, Arizona, Utah and Montana.

I have personally testified in support of this legislation previously in Oregon and am encouraged by this latest effort to recognize and legalize the practice. Perhaps one of the more dangerous situations for any motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go conditions, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators, and environmental factors all pose an increased risk of physical contact with another vehicle or hazard. Even minor contact under such conditions can be disastrous for motorcyclists.

Despite testimony from opponents in previous hearings, who have shared hysterical and unsubstantiated predictions of increased accidents, lawlessness and reckless behavior, we have seen no such consequences in any of the states where this practice is allowed. The riders and drivers of Oregon will in fact all benefit from this legislation, and to claim otherwise should require actual citable evidence, not just wild conjecture.

The key factor identified by U.C. Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center study was the speed delta—the difference in speed between the motorcyclist and surrounding traffic. As indicated by the lead researcher, Dr. Thomas Rice, a delta of 15 mph or less, up to a surrounding traffic speed of 50 mph, did not result in any associated changes to injury types or occurrence rates.

The AMA believes that H.B. 3542, which proposes significantly more conservative limits than those identified in the study, is an excellent opportunity for this practice to be introduced in Oregon and requests your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Haris', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Haris