



Automobile Club of Southern California

June 22, 2016

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 51 – Lane Splitting
Position: Support

Dear Chairman Lara:

The Auto Club supports AB 51 by Assemblyman Quirk, which authorizes the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to develop educational guidelines on the practice of lane splitting. The bill also directs the CHP to consult with agencies and organizations with an interest in road safety as it develops these guidelines.

California law is silent on motorcycle lane splitting and thus the practice is legal. However, several years ago the CHP published safety guidelines on its website to educate motorcycle riders on how to more safely engage in this practice. Those guidelines were later removed because they were considered an underground regulation. AB 51 remedies this situation by expressly authorizing the CHP to once again develop safety guidelines on lane splitting. This is a positive step as lane splitting can be a dangerous activity, so much so that every other state bans the practice.

The Auto Club believes that adoption of AB 51 will increase the safety of California roads for all users. We look forward to working with the CHP to develop guidelines that make sense and improve safety. Accordingly, we urge your support for this measure.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Chang', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Chang
Legislative Counsel
Automobile Club of Southern California

CC: Assemblymember Bill Quirk
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Mark McKenzie, Senate Appropriations Consultant
Ted Morley, Senate Republican Caucus