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To the Senate Judiciary Committee Members of Oregon,

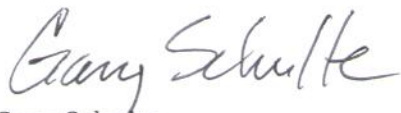
I am writing in reference to SB694 that is scheduled to be heard April 2, 2015. After reading and reviewing the text of the measure, I would like to convey my support for the measure. It is clear, concise and minimal. I strongly believe that allowing motorcyclists to filter in very slow traffic situations will not only improve the flow of traffic, but also will allow motorcyclists to take an active role in their own safety in such situations. Rear-end impacts to motorcycles are often fatal for the motorcyclist, especially in high speed quick stop scenarios such as when stopped traffic is encountered. If motorcyclists are attuned to slowing and filtering, their risk of being rear-ended will be greatly reduced, since they will naturally seek the edges of the lane in a slow traffic situation, thus allowing cars behind them additional distance to stop.

Having split lanes in California and ridden motorcycles in the road-use free-for-all that exists southeast Asia, I will readily admit there is a risk that is accepted by the motorcyclist when lane sharing. However, the text of this bill is closer to the practice of 'filtering' rather than lane sharing due to the speed limit imposed and therefore implicit maximum differential in speed that would be legal.

If this measure passes I would strongly encourage some level of public outreach to inform car drivers of the legality of the practice. Drivers will inevitably be frustrated in heavy traffic and seeing motorcyclists filtering would certainly frustrate drivers considerably if they believe the practice to be illegal.

Lastly, motorcycles, mopeds and electric motorcycles represent a greatly reduced carbon footprint over traditional combustion powered vehicles and cause much less wear on road surfaces. If motorcyclists were allowed to filter in slow traffic scenarios it would likely encourage drivers to consider an alternate form of transportation that is cleaner and lower impact. I can only see that as a good thing.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gary Schulte