

4/1/2015

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

I as a 50 year citizen of Oregon, and an avid motorcyclist, I wish you to know that I whole heartedly support SB694-1 to allow motorcycle lane splitting in Oregon. I feel this is an extremely important step in the right direction to provide a safer riding environment for all motorcyclists. As a motorcyclist, I feel most vulnerable when I am stopped and at the mercy of automobiles approaching from the rear. With the advent of cell phones and the increase in distracted driving incidents, I have noticed an increase in accidents involving vehicles being rear ended. If you have ever experienced this type of accident in an automobile, you know it is very traumatic and even a mild incident can cause issues like whiplash. Well, as you can imagine, that type of incident is magnified dramatically, to the point of potentially being fatal, when the vehicle being rear ended is a motorcycle. Lane splitting allows motorcycles to progress up through the stopped vehicles greatly reducing the potential for a motorcycle involved rear end accident. I know there are other concerns which come up, but most of those would only result if unusual behavior was exhibited by the automobile driver in the traffic jam. Things such as opening car doors, or purposefully swerving over in front of a passing motorcycle, are not typical behavior on a freeway. I appreciate your time and careful consideration regarding this potential change to make the roads safer for motorcyclists.

Respectfully,

Troy D. Teyema
Gresham, OR
Avid Motorcyclist and AMA member