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[AmericanMotorcyclist.com](http://AmericanMotorcyclist.com)

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Caddy McKeown  
Chair, House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE H-476  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for S.B. 694

Dear Chair McKeown and fellow committee members:

The American Motorcyclist Association is writing in support of Senate Bill 694, which would allow responsible lane splitting in Oregon.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcycling community. We represent the interests of millions of American on- and off-highway motorcyclists. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

As you are aware, this bill would allow motorcyclists to split lanes when riding in heavy traffic.

One of the most dangerous situations for any motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go vehicles, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators, and environmental conditions increase the risk of physical contact with another vehicle or hazard. Giving motorcyclists the choice to split lanes could reduce the occurrence of rear-end crashes between motorcyclists and cars.

A 2014 University of California Berkeley study that found that lane splitting is no more risky than motorcycling in general. In fact, motorcyclists are less likely to suffer head or torso injury or be killed while lane splitting than other motorcyclists, the study shows.

Other potential benefits of this legislation would include an increase in motorcycle conspicuity, because the motorcyclist is moving relative to other traffic; a reduction in motorcyclist fatigue from constant shifting and braking in stop-and-go traffic; a lessening of the risk for engine damage for air-cooled engines; a reduction in motorcyclists' exposure to ambient heat in the summer and car exhaust year-round due to fewer hours spent in traffic.

Once again, thank you for supporting this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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

Nicholas Haris  
Western States Representative