

Tristan S. Twohig  
6104 SW Canby St.  
Portland, Oregon 97219

Representative Caddy McKeown  
S-415 900 Court Street N.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97301

May 13, 2015

Re: Senate Bill 694

Dear Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 694 regarding motorcycle lane filtering. As the senate has already heard testimony from former and current motorcycle safety instructors, I would also like to attest to the increase in safety that this measure would provide for motorcyclists.

I have been commuting in Portland, exclusively on a motorcycle, every day for the last four years. Safety is my number one concern. I have had several close-calls while going to or coming from work, and most of them involved the narrow profile that motorcycles have. With my experience, drivers just don't see us. Motorcycles have a narrow profile and usually half the light output of a car. In our increasingly distracted world, it's all too common for a motorist to misjudge a motorcycle's speed and/or position, or even fail to see us at all. One example is when I was riding my motorcycle and stopped at a red light; the car behind me didn't see me. When the motorist did notice that I was stopped, it was too late, and he skidded off the road onto the shoulder narrowly avoiding a collision that I was powerless to avoid. These occurrences are all too common.

I am not looking to travel faster than the traffic around me. I am looking to minimize the probability of being hit by a distracted driver. I believe that lane filtering can, in large part help increase the safety of motorcyclists, by allowing us to ride between the lanes. The University of California at Berkeley conducted a study<sup>1</sup> that provided data concluding that moving the motorcyclist in-between the lanes lowered fatal and near fatal motor vehicle collision accidents substantially. The study is fascinating, and I recommend that you look through it if you are unsure of your support of this bill.

I would also like to make note that there are comprehensive studies offering strong data regarding the benefits of lane filtering. The case for motorcyclist safety is paramount in these studies but they also touch on other effects, such as less congestion on roadways and lower CO2 emissions from decreased starting and stopping while in traffic. The rest of the world seems to do just fine allowing motorcycles to filter through congestion, and there is positive research from California reinforcing elevated safety rates among riders.

The passing of Senate Bill SB694 would help motorcyclists to feel a little safer on Oregon roads. I truly believe that this measure would make my riding safer.

Thank you for your time,

Tristan Twohig

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<sup>1</sup> Motorcycle Lane-Share Study from University of California, Berkeley  
<http://www.ots.ca.gov/pdf/Publications/2014MCLaneSplittingSurvey.pdf>