

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate,

I write with concern over the far-reaching language of HB 2597 as it impacts drivers who utilize their mobile electronic devices for navigation and audio purposes.

This bill makes an illogical assumption about the distraction of an electronic device purely based on whether or not that device is permanently installed in a vehicle. This has great ramifications for drivers who utilize dash-mounted GPS navigation and radios, or cellular devices acting out GPS or music functions.

Practically speaking, why is the use of a mobile device in a cradle or mount considered more distracting than interaction with an in-dash display? If we were truly concerned with reducing the number of distractions while driving, why not also ban use of radios and all touch screen displays, and eating and drinking while driving. The line must be drawn somewhere, but it must be logical in its reasoning and practical in its expectations.

In reality, Oregon's problem with distracted driving is not one of legal loopholes, but one of lax enforcement. Consider also that Oregon already has restrictions on mobile phone use while driving that are greatly under-enforced. I challenge any driver in the Portland metro area to go a day of commuting without encountering one or more drivers holding a phone up to their ear or mouth.

Accordingly, this bill would not do anything to address drivers who already have a propensity for distracted driving and law-breaking, but it will punish drivers who currently make an effort to utilize their mobile electronics in the least-distracting means possible, by mounting them in lieu of an in-dash display.

Thank you for your time,

Lance Carocci
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