

SB 533

Testimony to Business and Transportation Committee

3 March 2015

IN SUPPORT of bill. Solves problem using common sense.

Christine Ruck,
Motorcyclist 45 + years
Linn County

Chair Beyer and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on behalf of motorcyclists to address a bill that will improve safety for all motorists. I've been riding since the age of 9 and experienced the exact scenarios we are addressing. I belong to several motorcycle groups, each with their own mission except one; SAFETY.

Those of us who ride do so for a variety of reasons and recognize that there are certain risks and we are very focused on minimizing risks, anticipating problems and doing our best to minimize potential injuries to ourselves and others. We need your help.

What we can not control or mitigate are the variations in traffic signal activation systems used at intersections. Each intersection has its own unique combination of factors: traffic volume at peak and slack hours and how the sensors embedded in the pavement will either recognize the presence of your motorcycle in order to trigger a green light so you can legally proceed.

One of the most specific risks we experience on a motorcycle is a rear end collision. Rear end collisions account for somewhere between 30-40 % of the accidents. Another case of the motorist whose only statement is, "I just didn't see them." We are asking for the legalization of a scenario for us to identify when it is safe to proceed and get out of the intersection.

SB533 is a perfectly acceptable, defined alternative that would let us proceed in the event of equipment anomalies that are out of our control.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to share my experience and perspective on the impact of SB533. Unable to be present at the hearing today in person, I would be very happy to participate in the hearing by phone or to answer any committee member's questions at their convenience.

Thanks you again.

Christine Ruck
Lebanon OR
christinelruck@gmail.com
541.401.0457