

27 March 2015

Rep. Caddy McKeown, Chair:

I am writing today to describe an experience I had with a "Dead Red" traffic signal. It was my intent to be present at the hearing scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2015; however, due to work commitments I am unable. Please consider this as written testimony in my absence. Let it be known that I am in favor of SB 533 A.

I had an experience a number of years back (late 2009 or early 2010) while riding a motorcycle, where I was cited for proceeding through a red light after waiting several minutes without a green light. It was early morning, traffic was light and I was first in line to make the left off of Murray Boulevard (Southbound) onto Jenkins Road (Eastbound) in Beaverton. By the time I had waited through multiple cycles without a green light, I noticed at least two cars behind me also waiting to make that left turn. I began to feel pressure from the cars behind me as one of them honked, urging me to take action. It was at that point I decided to proceed through the red light onto Jenkins Road, so as to not hold up traffic any longer. I checked oncoming traffic again and safely made the turn.

As soon as I had made the turn and proceeded onto Jenkins Road I was stopped by a Washington County Sheriff. The officer informed me that in his opinion I was justified in my action; however, since I had broken the law I must be cited.

I appeared at my court date as scheduled and spoke to the judge. After hearing my testimony and that of the citing officer, he ruled to dismiss my citation as I had no other safe option in that situation.

As stated above, I am in favor of SB 533 A. Receiving the citation that morning caused me to lose time and money as I was subsequently late for work, and I was forced to take additional time off for my court appearance. Passing SB 533 A will alleviate additional law-abiding, responsible citizens from similar wastes of time and money.

Respectfully,

Samuel Ian Dixon
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