

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stephen Fiddes. I am a 23 year old soldier in the Oregon Army National Guard, and I have been riding every day since 2011, and will soon be logging my 50,000th mile ridden on a motorcycle. I ride rain or shine, I have ridden in the snow, and many different styles of motorcycles ranging from my wife's 250CC cruiser, many sportbikes, and my current Kawasaki Concours 14. I am writing you today to urge you to Vote Yes on SB 694. Not only will Lane Filtering help traffic be less congested, but it will also allow motorcycles to move into a much safer position in traffic while it is moving slow. I have outlined some of the key reasons below.

1: Riding between the lanes actually moves the motorcycle into the mirror's view, and out of the blind spot of other vehicles.

2: When traffic is stop and go, that is the most likely time for a rear-end collision to occur. Being that motorcycles are 1/4 - 1/3 the width of a car, and only have one brake light, that throws depth perception off for drivers behind them, and typically it looks like they have a lot more stopping distance than they actually do. This is especially true with a motorcycle that is behind another vehicle, where the Motorcycle brake light may be in line with the left, right, or third brake light of the car in front of them. By moving to between the lanes, it takes the motorcycle out of the path of the vehicles behind them, and reduces the risk of rear-end collisions.

3: Under the current law, if traffic is completely stopped, the motorcycle must remain in the lane. This applies to both highways, and surface streets at red lights. For example: Let's say a motorcycle is approaching a 2 (or more) lane stopped traffic. The motorcycle slows to a stop, and a car (Car 1) approaches from behind the motorcycle in the same lane. Car 1 successfully stops behind the motorcycle. A second vehicle (Car 2) is approaching behind Car 1, and isn't paying attention to the road, and rear-ends Car 1, who is behind the motorcycle, pushing Car 1 into the motorcycle, and the motorcycle into the vehicle in front of it. While the drivers of the cars are most likely ok, the person riding the motor cycle may have suffered severe injuries, or depending on the speed, be killed. By allowing the motorcycle to slowly and safely proceed between the lanes of traffic, he now has multiple cars between him and any non-attentive driver. This bill would allow motorcycles to proceed between lanes of traffic, while traffic is traveling at 10 MPH or less, and the motorcycle must go no faster than 10 MPH faster than the speed of traffic. (Traffic 0 MPH, Motorcycle 10 MPH. Traffic 5 MPH, Motorcycle 15 MPH, etc) Realistically, slow traffic is dangerous to speeds as fast as 25 MPH (Motorcycle splitting at 35) but for purposes of this bill it is 10 MPH.

4: Lane filtering is a common practice in many other countries, and California. This is true on both highways, and at traffic lights. Studies have shown that the injuries sustained in a crash while lane filtering are far less severe than injuries sustained by a rear-end collision. This also will reduce traffic at least a little right off the bat because each motorcycle filtering, is one less vehicle stopped in traffic.

5: What could the long term effects be? Many drivers will see this as an “Unfair Advantage” or “Cutting to the front of the line”. Traffic is not a line to get lunch, It is a byproduct of everyone trying to be in the same place at the same time. Is it fair that someone who lives 2 miles from work only has to sit in traffic for 10 minutes, but someone who lives 15 miles from work has to sit in traffic for over an hour? Traffic is traffic, and it sucks for anyone involved. If other drivers really see it as an advantage, we invite you to join us on 2 wheels! It’s a very friendly community, and the more motorcycles that we get on the road, the less cars there will be clogging up 26 East from 217, 15 North and South, and 217 North and South of Allen, 205 North,

Thank you very much for your time, and again, I strongly urge you to Vote Yes on SB 694 in favor of Lane Filtering. Safer conditions for riders, and less traffic for everyone else!

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Thanks-
SPC Stephen G Fiddes
A-BTY, 2-218 FA
Oregon Army National Guard

Email: stephen.g.fiddes@gmail.com
Cell: 503 863 4359