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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

April 1, 2015

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski
Chairman, Senate Committee On Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, S-415
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for S.B. 694

Dear Chairman Prozanski:

The American Motorcyclist Association is writing in support of Senate Bill 694, which would allow responsible lane splitting in Oregon.

As you are aware, this bill would allow motorcyclists to split lanes when riding in heavy traffic.

One of the most dangerous situations for any motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go vehicles, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators, and environmental conditions increase the risk of physical contact with another vehicle or hazard. Giving motorcyclists the choice to split lanes could reduce the occurrence of rear-end crashes between motorcyclists and cars.

A 2014 University of California Berkeley study that found that lane splitting is no more risky than motorcycling in general. In fact, motorcyclists are less likely to suffer head or torso injury or be killed while lane splitting than other motorcyclists, the study shows.

Other potential benefits of this legislation would include an increase in motorcycle conspicuity, because the motorcyclist is moving relative to other traffic; a reduction in motorcyclist fatigue from constant shifting and braking in stop-and-go traffic; a lessening of the risk for engine damage for air-cooled engines; a reduction in motorcyclists' exposure to ambient heat in the summer and car exhaust year-round due to fewer hours spent in traffic.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly; we thank you for your efforts on behalf of the motorcycling community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Haris', written in a cursive style.

Nicholas Haris
Western States Representative