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April 1, 2015

TO: The Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB694-1

**Letter of Support** 

Sent as .pdf via email to <u>sjud.exhibits@state.or.us</u>

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for the State of Oregon:

I have been a motorcyclist since 1971. My law practice has focused on representing injured motorcyclists for the past 27 of my 31 years of practice in Oregon, and I write in support of this bill.

The benefits to lane-filtering are numerous: Less room taken up in traffic by motorcycles waiting in line, less congested traffic, and less wear and tear on the many air-cooled motorcycles whose engines can be damaged by long periods of idling in the heat.

Motorcycles also use much less gas than cars and have a lighter impact on the road surface than cars or trucks. By encouraging their use through bills like SB 694, we are using less fossil fuel, have less impact on the wear and tear of the road surface, and less exhaust emissions.

But MOST of all, with passage of this bill, there is NO chance of the biker being rearended in traffic while waiting behind a line of cars, because the rider can safely maneuver at low speed to the front of the line of traffic. A rear-end collision between cars most often just results in "whiplash" types of injuries; a rear-end collision to a motorcyclist can result in serious injury or death.

I would add that in my experience, riders overwhelmingly support this type of bill, and they above all others are concerned for their own safety. Eliminating a source of rear-end collisions while enhancing the utility of motorcycling can only benefit our state.

Sam Hochberg

Thank you,

Attorney at Law