

02 April 2015

Senator Floyd Prozanski,

I am writing you today to inform you of my support for SB 694. It was my intent to attend the hearing scheduled for today; however, I have work commitments that will not permit me to do so. Please consider this letter as written testimony in my absence. I am a native Oregonian and long-time motorcycle rider. Additionally, I have spent a great deal of time riding in California where there are no laws prohibiting lane-splitting, or lane-filtering. In all honesty, I have never encountered a problem when practicing lane-filtering. In fact, I feel that it is much safer to be between lanes rather than in the lanes where cars can suddenly stop and cause me to sustain a rear-end collision. It is these rear-end collisions that are most common and also most commonly fatal for motorcyclists.

As I said, I have taken several trips to California in recent years. Every time I have been to California on my motorcycle I have practiced lane-filtering. It is safe, and has never been a problem for me or the drivers around me. My experience includes five trips from Oregon to Monterey, California, in which I encountered many situations where I chose to lane-filter. In my estimation these instances combined amount to hundreds of miles of safe lane-filtering without incident.

As I am sure you are aware, there have been several studies conducted by various groups that overwhelmingly support the notion that lane-filtering is a safer way to travel when on a motorcycle, most notably, Car and Driver Magazine. Upon reading the information I have linked to in this letter, you will see that the data tell the story. It is factually safer for a motorcycle to be among the vehicles rather than stuck between them in line.

To conclude – there are many reasons to believe lane-filtering is a good idea for Oregon, it is safer, it will relieve some traffic congestion and it will save fuel, to name a few. California has been allowing this for years with positive effects. I believe it is time for Oregon to follow suit.

Respectfully,

Samuel Ian Dixon

1. <http://blog.caranddriver.com/california-says-motorcycle-lane-splitting-is-hella-safe-really/>
2. <http://www.roadandtrack.com/car-culture/advice/a24410/motorcycle-lane-splitting-will-change-your-life-not-end-it/>
3. <http://www.autoblog.com/2014/10/24/berkeley-findings-says-motorcycle-lane-splitting-safer-than-ever/>