

To: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

Chair Beyer and members of the committee,

My name is Kat Iverson, and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I urge you to reject the Speeding Facilitation Bill, officially known as HB 3414. This bill requires that drivers stay out of the left lane of multi-lane roads unless certain conditions exist. Because of the speed limit and number of lanes involved, it would mainly apply to freeways, where most of the exceptional conditions would rarely occur.

However, the condition which would be most applicable would be hard for anyone to determine. Paragraph (2)(f) allows an exception when traffic is moving slower than normal for that time and place. How is a driver to know what is normal at that time and place? Traffic normally moves slower than the speed limit during "rush hour," but how slow? Is it OK to drive at 25 mph in the freeway's left lane at 4:30 on a weekday, or does traffic normally move at 35 mph at that time and place? This bill demands that anyone wishing to use the left lane be familiar with traffic at all times of day. If the normal speed is 40 mph, but on a bad day traffic is moving at 30 mph, then this bill says that everyone must vacate the left lane leaving it empty and useless because everyone is driving slower than the normal speed.

What about lower volume hours of the day—those times when some drivers speed? Do the law-abiding drivers who go only as fast as the legal speed limit have to leave the left lane to facilitate those speeders? There are lanes designated for usage only by high occupancy vehicles. This is to encourage carpooling. This bill seems to require law abiding drivers to move aside for speeders. Does the state want to encourage speeding? In fact, if this bill passes, a driver will be breaking the law if he doesn't aid and abet law breakers.

Multiple lanes are built to accommodate more traffic. Do not try to micromanage the use of those lanes.