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OREGON STATE SENATE

DATE: June 23, 2015
TO: Honorable Senator Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Rules Committee
FROM: Senate President Pro Tempore Ginny Burdick
SUBJECT: House Bill 3414

Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the committee, for the record, my name is Ginny Burdick. I serve as the State Senator for District 18, which includes the city of Tigard and portions of west Portland.

I'm here today to discuss House Bill 3414 and the –A3 amendments. This bill, with the –A3 amendments, will make failing to yield the far left lane a Class D traffic violation on highways and freeways where the posted speed limit is greater than or equal to 55 miles per hour. It will only apply to roads with two or more lanes of traffic flowing in the same direction, and will not be enforced when traffic is moving slower than normal- such as during rush hour.

Failing to yield the left hand lane is a common source of frustration for drivers. We have all witnessed the traffic bottleneck created by one slow moving vehicle remaining in the left hand lane, even after all passing has been completed. When drivers do this, other drivers who are stuck behind the slower moving vehicle often get frustrated and end up tailgating or passing on the right. This can create dangerous driving conditions.

This bill will give the Oregon State Police the option to ticket drivers who refuse to move to the right after passing has been completed. Ten other states, including Washington, have laws similar to HB 3414 already on the books. I hope that we will become the 11th.

I strongly urge your "Aye" vote.