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February __, 2016

Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE,
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Oregon Legislators,

For the record my name is Rob Sadowsky, Executive Director with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. We are a nonprofit organization that creates healthy, sustainable communities by making bicycling safe, convenient and accessible in our work over the last 26 years.

Today I'm asking you to support SB 1553.

We believe strongly in Vision Zero – the goal of having zero serious injuries and fatalities on our roads – and this proposal to make it a crime to hurt someone with reckless driving will help address serious injuries on our roads and is a step in the direction.

It makes sense that a person commits the crime of assault in the third degree if the person is criminally negligent behind the wheel and causes serious physical injury to someone who is a vulnerable user of our roads. This bill follows Oregon's model legislation (ORS 811.135) to protect people who are walking and riding bikes on our roads and will help provide justice to victims of traffic violence.

We take no position on the portion of SB 1553 that addresses proof requirements for sex crimes. This issue is beyond our scope as an organization.

Thank you for considering our comments regarding this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

Rob Sadowsky
Executive Director

