



**GINNY BURDICK
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

DATE: March 6, 2017

TO: Honorable Senator Beyer, Chair
Senate Business and Transportation Committee

FROM: Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 532

Chair Beyer 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 Senate Bill 532 and the -1 Amendment. This bill, with the -1 Amendment, affirms that the far left lane is the passing lane on highways and freeways where the posted speed limit is greater than or equal to 55 miles per hour. Senate Bill 532 creates a Class D traffic violation for failing to use the passing lane properly. It will only apply to roads with two or more lanes of traffic flowing in the same direction. As per the -1 Amendment, driving in the left lane is permitted when traffic is moving slower than the posted speed limit - 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 clear authority to ticket drivers who refuse to move to the right after passing has been completed. Senate Bill 532 compels Oregon drivers to use our highway system in a safer, more efficient way.

I strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 532.

