

Salutations Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Robyn Kocienski and I am writing to encourage you to vote in favor of SB 385.

I am a motorcycle commuter and traveler because I care about my impact on the environment... and it's fun! My motorcycle's fuel consumption is around 70 mpg, emissions are significantly less than most vehicles, fewer resources are necessary to build and maintain a motorcycle, they're cheaper than cars, easier to park.. you get the idea. It's just a really practical way for me to get around. I wear high quality and reflective safety gear from head to toe because I only get one brain, and I'm much cuter with my skin still on me.

In my travels, I have ridden where lane splitting is the expected practice. The benefit to traffic congestion as well as rider safety has made this my preferred method of riding when traffic has come to a stop or is creeping along under 20 miles per hour on a highway. When I ride in places where I have to maintain my space in a lane on a motorcycle, I'm taking up nearly one car-length and contributing to the congestion. I am constantly checking my mirrors for inattentive drivers who may inadvertently crush me from behind because they were distracted by their phones, food, kids, pets, etc. Law enforcement doesn't catch every distracted driver, so I'm left to my own devices to avoid an accident.

Admittedly, I occasionally illegally split lanes in stopped traffic on Oregon highways now to prevent three things: being rear-ended, heat-stroke while wearing all of my safety gear, and the motorcycle overheating and breaking down. Having ridden with friends who broke down due to overheating in traffic, and gotten stuck in traffic waiting for an ambulance or tow trucks, I know these situations cause even more traffic problems than my motorcycle utilizing the space between cars which is unoccupied. I do so with the understanding that law enforcement may penalize me for doing the smart thing that works everywhere else in the world.

There's no doubt that the population of Oregon is going to continue to rise, especially in urban areas. The least expensive way to ease traffic congestion and air pollution in these areas is to permit lane splitting on commuter thoroughfares, such as the ones set to 50 mph or higher. We can expect to see the number of motorcycle commuters increase with the legalization of lane splitting in Oregon, which is a great thing! Drivers on smaller roads may actually be more aware that we are on the road too, and perhaps even look for us before turning in front of us.

There is no cost for implementation. As a matter of fact, I bet it costs taxpayers significantly more money to keep hearing this bill over and over. If SB 385 doesn't pass this year, we will be back every year until it does, absorbing time which could be spent on more complicated solutions, and spending taxpayer money.

Thank you for your time and check twice for motorcycles.

Robyn Kocienski  
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