



Lane Splitting letter

To: Suze@suzeriley.com

I have been riding since 2006 in Oregon and took the TEAM Oregon course. I am a safe rider, and watch everything around me as I ride, always prepared for things to happen.

A couple of times I have had to throttle and swerve to avoid being rear ended in traffic and at a light, and once had someone back up into me at a traffic light. Drivers in Oregon NEED to be more attentive to their surroundings. I have also had similar experiences in the Scion IQ I used to have. About a dozen times I have had to scoot out into an emergency lane to avoid being hit, and watched the car behind me slide only inches from the rear bumper of the car I had just swerved out from behind.

For those who argue that splitting lanes is dangerous, being stuck in a lane with bad drivers (like the examples here) behind you is even more dangerous. Motorcycles have been lane splitting successfully in other states for years, and when it becomes part of the culture, it is done safely and efficiently. Additionally, some of our bikes are air cooled and standing or idling along with a searing hot engine under you, can actually become far more dangerous than getting our bikes out of your way by safely moving between lanes to an open area where we can rejoin the traffic in a regular lane.

In an area that prides itself on eco-friendly options, I am surprised that people are so against lane splitting. Motorcycles take up less parking space, and if allowed to lane split, they cut down on traffic congestion. Employees can often get to work when cars are tied up in gridlock. Many of the riders I know are the most respectful people from all different backgrounds. This includes professionals and people who ride just because two wheels make them feel like they are more connected with the world around them. For those who are afraid of motorcycle riders because they have some preconceived perception of riders as violent and criminal elements, remove your blindfolds! Drivers in cars are not perfect saints. Motorcycle riders are just as varied in their interests and backgrounds as drivers of cars. We will not be riding past your family cars on the freeway and swinging chains at you, like some people have voiced that they fear will happen. We may just be the first responders that you need if you are in an accident, or an accountant, and often we are also moms that you see at PTA meetings.

Everyone needs to drive aware of their surroundings and respectful of other people on the road, regardless of the number of wheels we have on the ground. Riders just want the ability to safely get to where we are going like we can do in other parts of the country.