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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

March 16, 2017

Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol, S-415
900 Court St, N.E.
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 385

Dear Chairman Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am the AMA's Western States Representative and was very involved with the California effort (A.B. 51) to formalize and codify lane splitting, which was passed and signed into law in 2016. I also serve on the California Motorcycle Safety Program advisory committee and associated lane splitting subcommittee. As a rider myself, I hope to share my perspective and experiences with this often controversial and misunderstood topic.

Lane splitting (or filtering), when done under the accepted "best practices" recognized in the California Highway Patrol guidelines, is not only a benefit to the riding community, but also allows all road users to arrive sooner to their chosen destinations. The key factor identified in the U.C. Berkley study was the speed delta—the speed differential between the motorcyclist and surrounding traffic. As indicated by the lead researcher, Dr. Thomas Rice, a delta of 15 mph or less, up to a surrounding traffic speed of 50 mph, did not result in any associated changes to injury types or occurrence rates.

I feel that S.B. 385, which is more conservative than the practices identified in the Berkeley study, is an excellent opportunity for this to be introduced in Oregon.

The American Motorcyclist Association places significant emphasis on motorcycle operator and passenger safety. On every type of public roadway, motorcyclists encounter challenges from other roadway users and are constantly vigilant to unsafe conditions around them.

Perhaps one of the most dangerous situations for any on-highway motorcyclist is being caught in congested traffic, where stop-and-go vehicles, distracted and inattentive vehicle operators and environmental conditions pose an increased risk of physical

contact with another vehicle or hazard. Even minor contact under such conditions can be disastrous for motorcyclists.

In many countries, lane splitting (or filtering) is considered a normal practice for motorcycle and scooter riders. Particularly in the highly urbanized areas of Europe and Asia, riders are expected to pass between conventional vehicles and filter (advance) to the front of the group.

Efforts to formally legalize and recognize lane splitting/filtering are under consideration in many states during the 2017 legislative sessions. These include not only Oregon, but also Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

The AMA fully supports S.B. 385 and requests the committee endorse its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nick Haris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" and last name "Haris" clearly distinguishable.

Nicholas Haris
Western States Representative