

As a motorcyclist that commutes everyday from Bethany to Downtown Portland, I would like to respectfully ask you to help support SB574.

In recent years, traffic on Portland freeways has become more condensed and parking downtown becoming more scarce. It is while considering these items that we plead with your committee to help make commuting on a motorcycle at least a little safer.

I've been riding motorcycles for most of my adult life both in California and Oregon, and understand the issues a motorcyclist faces commuting everyday. I commute year-round from Bethany to downtown Portland on a motorcycle, sometimes on the freeway, but more often on backroads because I have seen too many rear end collisions from distracted drivers on 26. In a car, a rear-end collision at 20-30mph will ruin your day, maybe total your vehicle, and give you lasting back-pain. That same collision on a motorcycle could easily ruin or take your life. The average driver on the road has never had to think in these terms.

Before most riders go out, they check their tires, make sure their bike is working properly, and put on an appropriate amount of gear. We do all of these things because we understand that riding is inherently dangerous and some risks can be mitigated by making small changes. Everyday we make these conscious decisions weigh their risks and benefits.

Motorcyclists are used to being in control of their machine and their safety as much as possible. We understand that if a turn is taken too fast, we risk the tires slipping out if we don't know the road conditions ahead. The idea of being rear-ended is terrifying for any motorcyclist because even if you see the car approaching, there is nothing that can be done and no amount of preparation could have stopped it.

Please vote YES on SB574 and help give us motorcyclists more control over our personal safety.

Thank you for your time.