

I fell in love with riding in Bend, Oregon, when my first girlfriend offered me a ride on her 1985 Honda Elite 80cc scooter. Oregon is a particularly beautiful place to ride and I've spent the last 30 years exploring it on two wheels, from the bracing salt air of our coasts to lush forest lanes to Eastern Oregon's high desert. Over the past 30 years -- and 20 years of law practice focused on Oregon's Vehicle Code -- I have watched Oregon's traffic needs change. When our freeways lock up, it is easy to look ahead and see how I could alleviate it by making room for a car -- but instead, Oregon law locks me into taking up a full lane of stalled traffic. I am respectfully asking that you let us motorcyclists and scooters do what is natural: lane-share, as is safely done in our sister state California and the original home of our country's common law, England.

When I went to England for a summer semester of law school, my friend and I rented Honda CB400 motorcycles in London -- then had to figure out how to wend our way out of London during afternoon rush hour. I saw that motorbikes sharing lanes was welcomed, safe, and effective. It was a measure that kept all traffic moving. In about 5 minutes I'd gotten the hang of it and it had become part of my riding toolbox while I was there. We can do it here, too. It's smart, safe, good for traffic and better for the environment. I respectfully ask that you support a SB 574.