

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am sending this letter today asking for your YES vote to move SB 574 forward to the full House and Senate for their consideration. As a motorcycle rider for 35+ years, I have also had extensive experience with lane-sharing when I was stationed in California during military service. My motorcycle was my year-round mode of transportation. The biggest misconception about lane-sharing that I hear is that "riders are zooming between cars." Even in California where there is no speed differential component to their law (like there is in SB 574) I never "zoomed between cars." In fact I only CHOSE to lane-split during conditions where I felt the SAFEST for myself and other commuters. I did not choose to use it at normal highway speeds - only during big jams. I never chose to do it between 2 semi trucks. And I never went faster than maybe 10-15 miles per hour faster than the jammed traffic. In all of those years I never touched another car or even saw another rider have an altercation with another car. It is simply a way of life in the brutal traffic of California metro roads. Without this provision the traffic would be even worse for sure.

In addition you will see the Berkeley Study data that a rider is actually LESS LIKELY to sustain a serious injury or death in the rare occasion of a crash if he or she WERE lane sharing verses those who were involved in crashes while NOT lane sharing. SB 574 is the most "sensible lane-sharing proposal here to date." Motorcycles are more CARBON-FRIENDLY in the environment and a lane-sharing provision would ENCOURAGE more riders (especially during warm months) to leave their cars at home rather than contributing further to metro congestion. Lane-sharing will allow riders too "keep progressing slowly and prudently" rather than sitting still, overheating, breathing exhaust fumes, and further contributing to Oregon's alarming traffic statistics. Lane-sharing would help to ease the commute (if even by a few minutes each day) for 10's of thousands of automobile commuters as well by getting a portion of the motorcycles out of the main lanes during jams. SB 574 is bipartisan and does not propose a fiscal impact to Oregonians. I THANK YOU for hearing the bill and ask for your YES vote to move this sensible and important transportation measure forward.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted, Don Mason Albany, Oregon resident and rider