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AmericanMotorcyclist.com

February 22, 2023

Senator Floyd Prozanski
900 Court St. NE, S-413
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Kim Thatcher
900 Court St. NE, S-307
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 422

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

I am the Western States Representative for the American Motorcyclist Association and was very involved with the California effort, Assembly Bill 51, to formalize and codify lane sharing, which was signed into law in 2016. Most recently a bill to allow filtering in Arizona, Senate Bill 1273, was adopted in 2022. This bill was the latest in a series of similar pieces of legislation, including House Bill 149 in Utah in 2019 (extended in 2022) and Senate Bill 9 in Montana in 2021.

Perhaps one of the more 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.

The key factor identified in the recent study on the subject by U.C. Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center was the speed delta—the difference in speed 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.

The AMA believes that S.B. 422, which proposes significantly more conservative limits than the practices identified in the study, is an excellent opportunity for this practice to be introduced in Washington state and requests your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Haris', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nicholas Haris