

Submitter: Claire Porter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB422

I support the passing of this measure. I am a motorcyclist myself, and would likely rarely use the opportunity to travel between lanes if granted it. However, there are situations in which the inability to filter through traffic can cause a hazard to a motorcyclist. As an example, I was out riding one day with my full safety gear on, head to toe, during a hot summer day. Now typically heat is not a major issue with the gear - it is vented and as long as I am moving at least somewhat I am cooled enough. However this day there was an accident on 205 and I got caught in a very long backup of traffic that moved incredibly slowly for a long period of time. By the time I was able to pass the accident, I was nearly delirious from being overheated in all of my safety equipment (which the Oregon government encourages all riders to wear), and had to pull off at the next exit to rest and cool down. If my motorcycle was an older air cooled model I likely would have been stranded from it overheating. If I had been able to legally filter, I could have avoided this situation without having any negative impact on other road users. Additionally, the ability to filter is used in other places with success. This measure could provide an incentive for more people to ride motorcycles, which have benefits like taking up less parking space, often being extremely fuel efficient and causing minimal road wear, and reducing congestion on high traffic roads. The arguments against this measure that have been used in the past - namely, that it is unsafe because road users are not used to it - is a fallacy, as there is no opportunity to change that status without passing the measure, and could be combatted with a public awareness campaign to make it known that the measure had passed and inform road users of its presence. People sometimes worry that motorcyclists will use this as an opportunity to lane split even in disallowed situations, but the reality is that the riders who would do that are already unsafely and illegally lane filtering - I have seen many such riders on the road that will disregard traffic laws, just as many other motorists do. This measure would simply grant riders that wish to follow traffic laws and arrive at their destination safely more of an opportunity to do so, while reducing road congestion and wasted time sitting in traffic without adversely effecting other road users.