

Black Motorcyclists of Oregon
Urge Oregon Legislature to Pass SB 422

Dear Mr. Chairman Prozanski and esteemed Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience and perspective, **as a black man**, and a motorcyclist in Oregon, in the hopes that I might be able to persuade you to support SB 422.

As I learned to ride a motorcycle and was accepted into the generous community of motorcyclists that Oregon is fortunate to have, I felt overwhelming triumph. This community has welcomed and encouraged me, witnessing my progress from a timid newcomer to an accomplished rider. Motorcycling has been a positive influence in my life.

Motorcycling started as a pathway for me, as a young black man with little in terms of resources, to have reliable transportation I could use to commute to work and school. That first motorcycle was with me as I began working in the fast-food industry and later as a medical assistant. Now, I own my own business. I employ others, working daily to fight the narrative I was born into. Today, I work for all black motorcyclists, current and future, in taking the time to write to you.

You must accept that motorcycles and by extension, motorcyclists' rights and privileges, are particularly important to the people of color in your communities. I take **relief** in the fact that my helmet cam is always recording, my hands are always visible, and there is no question as to whether an officer can smell marijuana in my vehicle, because everything is externally visible on my motorcycle. Though I do not count all police officers as bad, I fear for my safety when I see what happens to other black men in the United States of America. These small benefits I have as a motorcyclist help put me at ease and reinforce my safety when traveling on public roads.

Lane filtering is especially important because besides the safety considerations everyone else has mentioned here, it would give **me** the ability to safely move away from an unsafe situation. I don't need to be parked in slow traffic in front of someone letting on and off their brakes behind me, playing chicken with my safety.

In 2021, every legislator that worked in opposition of the similar Senate Bill 574 denied me this added safety, including you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Prozanski, and our former governor, Kate Brown.

Regardless, I appreciate the opportunity to be heard on this issue, and reverently hope that I have been able to move you and any others that might oppose SB 422 to consider supporting our communities of color alongside all motorcyclists. **Please join Oregon's black motorcyclists and support for this bill without further delay.**

Nigel Erickson
Proud Black Motorcyclist and Constituent of Senate District 18 and House District 35
17311 SW Novato Lane
Beaverton, OR 97078

Nigel E