

Submitter: Eric Rovelli Lambart  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: SB422

As an Oregonian and a motorcyclist, I support SB422.

I've spent years commuting and traveling by motorcycle in Europe, the UK, and in California, all places which allow lane splitting behavior similar to that allowed by the proposed amendments in this bill. I know it can be done safely, and helps traffic flow more efficiently—all the while encouraging the use of a very fuel-efficient form of transportation. Countless people do it safely every day.

When I moved to Oregon nearly 20 years ago knowing that lane splitting wasn't legal, I thought I'd really miss it. But at first there was little traffic to be found here, and although I continued to ride (year round) almost every day, the change didn't have much impact on my life.

Now, in the 2020s, the Portland-area traffic has grown so bad that stop-and-go traffic happens every day, on every freeway.

Even in perfect weather, motorcyclists know their vehicles are less visible than most, so they must always worry about getting rear-ended in traffic—among the other hazards when they're surrounded by multi-ton vehicles. They must constantly check their mirrors, to be sure that vehicle behind them isn't getting too close, or coming up too fast. Being able to move forward between stopped (or nearly stopped) lanes of freeway traffic means the motorcyclist can keep most of the hazards \*ahead\* of them, where they are much easier to keep track of—and thus to avoid. Being rear-ended by a car becomes nearly impossible.

Imagine if you can being a motorcyclist yourself, sitting in bad traffic on a highway. You're inching along, with semi trucks and delivery vans with distracted drivers always right on your tail. You're similar to a bicyclist in size, and almost as invisible. But unlike a bicyclist, you have no legal way to escape the flow of traffic on the highway and continue on your way. You're stuck there breathing diesel fumes instead, without even the benefit of a car's cabin air filter.

Is lane splitting dangerous? Of course any activity on the road is dangerous, but when practiced carefully, respectfully, and at relatively low speeds as described in SB422, lane splitting is safer than not doing it, and it reduces traffic for everyone. It can help us get home more quickly and safely, rather than nonsensically sitting, soggily, in terrible traffic.

I have read the entire text of the proposed amendments (and the sections which they amend), and I wholeheartedly support SB422.

I respectfully request that you do as well. Thank you.