

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski
Senator, State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sent via electronic submission

Re: SB 422, Relating to motorcycles - Opposition

Dear Senator Prozanski,

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)¹ must respectfully **oppose SB 422**, which would allow a motorcycle operator to travel between lanes of traffic.

APCIA member companies have seen an increase in the number of crash fatalities and serious injuries during the pandemic. Insurers strive to reduce injuries on our roads, including reducing auto and motorcycle insurance losses, which translates to keeping premiums low for Oregon consumers.

APCIA opposes permitting lane filtering for the following reasons:

- The practice introduces another potentially dangerous variable by decreasing the space between vehicles, thus reducing the margin for error.
- Permitting lane splitting seems particularly unwise when distracted driving is already a major concern on our roads, especially in traffic when drivers may engage in other tasks and pick up their mobile devices.
- The number of motorcycle fatalities continues to rise. According to NHTSA², motorcycles crash fatalities reached an all-time high in 2020, with 5,579 deaths.

Additionally, the Washington State Office of Transportation Safety released their review³ of lane splitting finding that:

- Vehicle drivers express strong opinions regarding lane-sharing. Consistent majorities believe that lane-sharing should not be legalized. They believe the practice is inherently unsafe and that all vehicles in traffic should be compelled to follow the same general rules.
- One recent study found that lane-sharing motorcyclists experienced a shrinking of perceptual view that reduced their awareness of vehicles and non-motorists around them.
- A recent French project developed a naturalistic study that revealed that motorcyclists engaged in lane-sharing were roughly four times more likely to be injured in a traffic crash than motorcyclists who were not splitting.

¹ APCIA is the primary national trade association for home, auto, and business insurers. APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers, with a legacy dating back 150 years. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions—protecting families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe.

² <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813306>

³ http://wtsc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Motorcycle-Lane-Sharing_Dec2017.pdf

Accordingly, for all of the abovementioned reasons, **we must respectfully oppose SB 422**. We appreciate your consideration of our comments and look forward to continued discussions on this issue. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 209.968.9107 or denneile.ritter@apci.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denni Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denni Ritter

Vice President, State Government Relations
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