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April 22, 2023

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support Senate Bill 895 to codify how a motorist should safely pass a bicyclist or other “obstruction” in a no-passing zone

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Andersen and Wallan, and members of the Committee,

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit that is building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

BEST supports Senate Bill 895 to codify how a motorist should safely pass a bicyclist or other “obstruction” in a no-passing zone.

Oregon has many beautiful places and our roads are for all of us to share.

Imagine a family out for a recreational bicycle ride on a summer weekend. Maybe it is you or maybe it is someone you love. If you live in Lane County, maybe you are riding north to Detering Orchards to pick fruit, or maybe south to King Estate Winery to wine and dine. Regardless, you are likely on a two-lane, undivided rural roadway with little to no shoulders. You and your family are obeying all the traffics laws, riding with traffic, and staying as close to the right shoulder as is safe without risking falling off the road. You are riding a leisurely 10 mph or maybe a faster 15 mph.

Now imagine you are a driving along the same rural roadway at the speed limit, 45 or 55 mph. You come upon the family in a no-passing zone with a double yellow line. How do you safely pass the family?

With oncoming traffic, do you speed up to try to race around the family, staying mostly in your lane to avoid crashing into another car but risking hitting the family in your haste?

No, to be safe and prudent, you slow down and wait for a break in the oncoming traffic. Then you pull far enough to the left to give the family plenty of room, even if doing so requires you to cross the double yellow line. You pass cautiously, pulling back into your lane once you are clear.

BEST urges you support Senate Bill 895 to codify the safe and prudent way for a motorist to pass in a no-passing zone.

For BEST,

Rob Zako, Executive Director

Building a successful community by bringing people together
to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation • PO Box 773, Eugene, OR 97440 • 541-343-5201

info@best-oregon.org • www.best-oregon.org • www.facebook.com/BetterEugeneSpringfieldTransportation

BEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Tax ID #42-1661720.