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Hello,

I am an avid cyclist and of course someone who also owns a car. This bill is very misleading as it creates unsafe situations for both drivers and cyclists.

+This law will make roadways less safe by making groups of riders much longer, forcing overtaking cars to take more time in the oncoming lane while passing.

+This law will make roadways less safe by encouraging cars to pass bicycles in unsafe places.

+Drivers should change lanes to pass bicycle riders.

+Maine law permits a bicyclist to choose a lane position based on their judgement of safety, and already includes a requirement to ride as far to the right as is practicable.

I often lead group mountain bike rides on which sometimes we ride sections of pavement to connect trails. These groups are typically 10-15 people and we always do our best to be good stewards, follow the rules, and ride safely for both drivers and ourselves. I cannot conceive a situation where a LONGER group of cyclists would promote a SAFER passing situation for a driver.

For example, if we are a group of 15 - in single file, our group will likely be 125-150' depending on spacing, if we riding two abreast our group length will likely be HALF of that. A shorter group length gives drivers a safer opportunity to pass and gives them more visibility to what is happening IN FRONT of the group. I can imagine a scenario of a driver of a vehicle trying to pass a long single file group of cyclists on a corner or something else where the view ahead is obstructed to be very dangerous for both parties.

As a cyclist, we don't have many tools of safety when we are on the road and we depend on drivers to make safe decisions. This proposed law DOES NOT PROMOTE DRIVERS MAKING SAFE DECISIONS TO OVERTAKE GROUPS OF CYCLISTS.