

## **LD 1230 – An act to Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the operation of Bicycles on Public Ways**

This law is misleading because it insinuates the “enhancement” of traffic safety. Simply stated it has the effect of lessening safety for the traveling public, including motorists.

The premise is that when a driver is attempting to pass a group of cyclists it is; and will be by law if this law passes, expected the cyclists will move to the edge of the road and ride single file making it “safer” for the driver to pass. It will make passing more dangerous. The perception and misunderstanding is cyclists must move over and let motor vehicle traffic pass. This is incorrect in the law when the travel lane is too narrow for the driver to pass the cyclist by 3’ while staying in the travel lane. Law permits the cyclist to utilize the lane in this case to **prevent** unsafe passing. By riding single file the passing distance is greatly increased thus resulting in a much more dangerous situation.

I have been riding with groups of cyclists for years, hundreds of rides. In many cases when we as, a group have moved over and tried to form a narrower group, drivers have passed on blind curves, hills and when motor vehicles in the opposite are approaching. I have experienced drivers pulling back into the lane much too soon, approaching drivers having to pull onto the shoulder of their lane, sometimes coming to a stop and I have seen two vehicles opposing each other in the oncoming lane having to stop for lack of room.

This law ought not to pass, no pun intended, as it will make traveling on our roadways more dangerous. Everyone needs to slow down, be cautious and take it easy. We all have equal rights to the road and equal rights to expect to be able to travel safely

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony.

Paul Niehoff

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Transportation Planner

Bike Law Ambassador

Youth Cycling Club Board Member

Portland Velo Club Board Member

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