

Benjamin Sawyer
Falmouth

Benjamin Sawyer Testimony in OPPOSITION to
LD 1230 "An Act To Enhance Traffic Safety with Regard to the Operation of Bicycles on
Public Ways"

Good Afternoon Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Ben Sawyer and I
writing to you as a cyclist and bike shop employee. I am writing to you to urge you to vote
OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1230.

I am a cyclist that rides many times a week, in both urban and rural settings, and have spent
many hours on the road. I have seen first-hand what proper bicycle lanes can achieve, and
the danger when riding on public roads when ill-informed, angry, late, or distracted drivers
decide that a few seconds of their time are more important than my life.

In places where riders have to take the lane because of sub-standard lane width, riders
might wind up being single file in the middle of the lane. With some group rides, this
could result in over fifty cyclists riding in a single file line, making it impossible for
cars to pass without long straightaways, causing unsafe passes, and diminishing rider
safety while causing increasing road rage in drivers.

Drivers need to be able to pass safely, and increasing the length of a group of cyclists
is not the way to achieve this. Currently 39 states explicitly permit bicycles to ride
two abreast under law for safety and convenience.

I believe this bill will encourage dangerous, close passes by suggesting that a car
always has priority to pass a bicycle, and that bicycles need to get out of their way.
This is a dangerous attitude to take to give priority to a person surrounded by a steel
cage, while putting at-risk road users - cyclists- even more at risk.

Cyclists are already at danger riding on many of our roads, with drivers being
distracted or even worse, unwilling to give up a few seconds of their time and
knowingly putting cyclists lives at risk.

Thank you for your time