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November 27, 2012

AmericanMotorcyclist.com

The Honorable Lesia Liss
House Transportation Committee
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Liss:

With over 220,000 members nationwide, the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) is the world's largest motorcycling organization dedicated to protecting the future of motorcycling and promoting the motorcycle lifestyle.

We write today to express our support for House Bill 5848, legislation that would permit operators of bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, and three-wheeled vehicles to proceed with caution through a steady red traffic-actuated signal after the operators have come to a complete stop, waited either one full cycle of the signal or sixty seconds, and determined the detection system has not recognized their presence.

Twelve states, namely Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin, have addressed this issue by amending their laws to permit motorcyclists (and in some cases, bicyclists) to proceed through a steady red traffic-actuated signal under certain conditions.

We understand there may be opposition to permitting operators of the above-mentioned vehicles to proceed through a steady red signal, but forcing these smaller vehicles and their operators and passengers to remain stationary before a malfunctioning or maladjusted traffic-actuated signal is unsafe and unjust. Further, we recognize that Departments of Transportation have insufficient budgets to adjust, refurbish, or replace all such malfunctioning or maladjusted traffic-actuated signals.

We encourage Departments of Transportation to review their design specifications and make new and reconstructed traffic-actuated signals more robust by incorporating updated buried loop detector designs or using video detection systems. In the meantime, operators of smaller vehicles should have a way to treat these signals as inoperable traffic control devices.

The AMA believes House Bill 5848 provides relief to a segment of the transportation community that is negatively impacted by malfunctioning and maladjusted traffic-actuated signals and therefore respectfully requests your support and YES vote on House Bill 5848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imre F. Szauter', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Imre F. Szauter
Government Affairs Manager