

Kess, Quinn

From: Maggie Allman <maggie.allman@zeiss.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:38 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Subject: Hearing on Bill 103 tomorrow

Dear Senator McKinney and Representative Shaban:

I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 103 (CT SB00103) which is currently under consideration by the legislature. As a long-time Connecticut resident and cyclist, I believe that the proposed bill will unreasonably interfere with safe recreational cycling in Connecticut and is unnecessary given the current laws which already deal adequately with this issue.

As I am sure you know, subsection (b) of current Ct. Gen. Statutes Section 14-286b, which SB 103 seeks to modify, provides that a cyclist may ride two abreast except when doing so would "impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic..." The existing statute provides a reasonable and adequate balance between the rights and obligations of cyclists and motorists and also adequately protects the public safety. There are many circumstances where cyclists must and do ride two abreast. These include when overtaking a slower rider, especially on hilly terrain, when exchanging places in a pace line, which is, by design, single file riding except for the periods of time when riders are changing the lead, and, at times, when assisting other riders.

Under the proposed bill, each of these would be prohibited. As a result, normal attributes of recreational cycling will be outlawed, even when they pose no threat to the safety of either cyclists or motorists and where they do not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Current Section 14-286b already prohibits riding two abreast when it would interfere with the flow of traffic. As a result, in those rare instances where cyclists may be impacting motorists in an inappropriate way by riding two abreast, current law provides the necessary law enforcement tools.

The impact will be especially severe for the many organized and charity rides that Connecticut hosts each year, which serve to raise massive amounts of donations for worthy charities in the state.

The scenic byways and backroads of Connecticut are a huge state asset which is used and enjoyed by many thousands of Connecticut residents and visitors each year. I strongly urge you not to enact SB 103 which is unnecessary and will have a severely negative effect on the use and enjoyment of this resource by recreational cyclists.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Allman
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