

Kess, Quinn

From: TomObrien <obrien9685@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 6:53 PM
To: Kess, Quinn
Cc: Kelly Kennedy | Bike Walk CT
Subject: Written testimony in opposition to S.B. No. 103

I am writing to register my opposition to S.B. No. 103, AN ACT REQUIRING BICYCLISTS TO RIDE SINGLE FILE ON A PUBLIC ROAD.

As a bike-rider, and a motorist, I've been heartened by the efforts that the State of Connecticut has made in recent years to reform its auto-centric transportation system and offer more support for walking and bicycling. The increasing numbers of people I see on sidewalks and bikes offers proof that the policy is working.

Of course, not everybody embraces these positive changes. Some drivers who were accustomed to having the roads to themselves, simply don't want to share. Hence their outrage when they observe cyclists rolling through a stop sign, or riding two abreast, in places where they ought to ride single file--as if they were the only road users to ever flout the law.

Passing a new law though is not the answer. If I understand it correctly, under subsection (b) of Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-286b ("Persons riding two abreast ... shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic ...") it's already against the law for bicyclists to ride two abreast if that action alone prevents a motorist from safely passing.

Education, rather than legislation, is what we all need. Motorists must accept that they don't own the roads; and bicyclists must learn to follow the rules of the road. A public relations campaign aimed at helping both groups learn to share the road would be much more effective than restricting the movements of bicyclists.

Thank you,

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