

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington D.C 20510

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is to inform you that ABATE of Iowa, Inc. members are strongly opposed to Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters request to amend the language of SAFETEA-LU. I am referring to a letter to you dated February 13, 2008 in which Secretary Peters asks:

To amend subsection (e)(1) of Section 2010 ("Motorcycle Safety) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A legacy for Users, or SAFETEA-LU, to allow a State to use funds under Section 2010 to promote the use of motorcycle helmets.

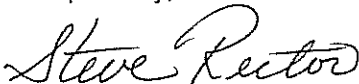
Secretary Peters is asking that (Public Law 109-59; 119 Stat.1144, et seq.) is amended by striking "only" and inserting the following: "to promote the use of motorcycle helmets, and"

Many motorcyclist rights organization members lobbied long and hard for the current legislation that allows states to use 2010 grant funds for motorcycle safety training and motorcycle awareness programs. Secretary Peters wanting to divert federal safety funds to promote helmet use will only harm the already under funded rider training programs. Furthermore sections of the transportation bills passed in 1998 and 2005 ban the use of federal motorcycle safety funds to lobby state legislators in favor of mandatory helmet laws. We believe this may be an attempt to reverse these bans. Helmets do nothing to reduce motorcycle crashes. The only ways to reduce crashes is through proper training and riding experience along with public awareness. We need to encourage all motorists to be responsible for their actions, which will change their behavior. This is being done through awareness programs such as Share the Road.

ABATE of Iowa will be sending a delegation to Washington D.C February 24th to speak with our Senators and Congressmen. These delegates from ABATE of Iowa will also be presenting letters from our members stating their opposition to DOT Secretary Peters requested amendment of subsection (e)(1) of Section 2010 SAFETEA-LU.

We ask that you respectfully decline Secretary Peters' requested amendment.

Respectfully,



Steve Rector
State Coordinator
ABATE of Iowa, Inc.