

United States Department of Transportation
USDOT Secretary Mary Peters
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20590

Dear, Secretary Peters

This letter is to inform you that ABATE of Iowa, Inc. members are strongly opposed to your asking that language of SAFETEA-LU to be amended. I am referring to a letter to you sent on February 13, 2008 to the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives. We ask that you withdraw the following request:

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That

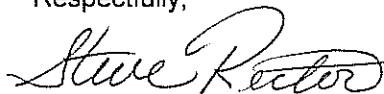
Subsection (e)(1) of Section 2010 ("Motorcyclist Safety") of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109-59; 119 Stat.1144, et seq.) is amended by striking "only" and inserting the following: "to promote the use of motorcycle helmets, and"

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. Your 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.

Secretary Peters, the next thing I would like to discuss comes directly for your November 2, 2007 press release it is a statement by you. "Secretary Peters said she is one of the many "baby-boomers" who have recently returned to riding after years of shelving their bikes in lieu of family and careers." In August 2005, you suffered a broken collar bone after a crash on a two-lane highway just north of Tucson, Arizona. You ran into your husband's motorcycle, which is probably due to lack of proper training and surely lack of paying attention. We know this is a very serious problem with baby-boomers that shelve riding for years then after the kids are gone decide to start riding again without any refresher training. Riding with others, as you stated in your PSA, is not the answer for a rider that needs to focus on experience and training.

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

Respectfully,



Steve Rector
State Coordinator
ABATE of Iowa, Inc.