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## United States Senate

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November 16, 2007

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Mr. Wayne T. Wierson  
1115 Curless Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Mr. Wierson:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. It is always good to hear from motorcyclists back home. Please accept my apology for the delay in this response.

I appreciate knowing of your concerns regarding the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations for motorcycle safety issued September 11, 2007, especially their focus on a universal helmet law. I am glad that you had the chance to sit on the Motorcycle Safety Forum. It is helpful to me to have your first hand thoughts and experiences on this issue.

I have sent a letter to the National Transportation Board (NTSB) forwarding a letter from ABATE of Iowa that outlines the specific concerns with the recent NTSB recommendations as well as ABATE's recommendations to the NTSB to develop comprehensive accident prevention recommendations based on current and future research. I asked that the NTSB give these concerns all due consideration. I will be back in touch with you as soon as the response is received in my office.

I favor the use of helmets for motorcycle drivers and riders. There are a variety of respected studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of helmets. For instance, more than 80 percent of all motorcycle accidents result in injury or death to the motorcyclist. Physicians characterize trauma in motorcycle crashes as the worst trauma they treat outside of a combat zone. However, I also agree that we should be encouraging accident prevention and road safety.

Laws governing motorcycle helmets have traditionally been under the authority of the state governments. Generally, I oppose federal legislation that forces states to comply with government mandates at the risk of losing federal funds. *CEJ*

Therefore, since this is largely a state issue, I encourage you to contact your state legislators if you have not already done so. You may call the Iowa State Capitol at 515/281-5011 for information regarding your state representative and senator so that you can share your views with them. They deal with this matter more directly and need to hear from you so that they can effectively do their job. You may also wish to contact Governor Chet Culver by writing to him at the Iowa Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Referred to:  
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:  
BUDGET  
JUDICIARY  
AGRICULTURE

Co-Chairman:  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS  
CONTROL CAUCUS

10/16/07-09/16/07 (10/16/07)

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and for sitting on the NTSB Motorcycle Safety Forum. I hope that you will continue to keep me informed of federal matters that are important to you.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator

CEG/mm

*Thanks for your views!*