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The Honorable Evelyn Lynn  
212 Senate Office Bldg.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear Senator Lynn,

I will be in Tallahassee, participating in the ABATE of Florida Motorcycle Rights Rally on Monday, April 14, 2008. I respectfully request an opportunity to speak to you or a member of your staff about pending legislation concerning motorcyclists and traffic safety. I am anticipating being in the Senate Office building by 10:30 AM. There is legislation that seeks to promote traffic safety. However, not all interesting ideas are written to become good laws. Some of my concerns might be addressed during the committee process. At this time, the issues concerning motorcyclists, that will be discussed, are:

#### Stunt Driving on Public Roads.

HB 137 was unacceptable until it was changed in the House Transportation committee. Staff reports state that there are existing laws dealing with reckless driving (riding). SB802 is not identical. SB802 does deal with reckless driving but fails to define exactly what type of motorcycle driving warrants first time seizure of a motorcycle. Automobile drivers do not appear to face vehicle impoundment for a first time arrest for poor driving. SB802 does cover other issues concerning license plates which are needed by law enforcement to prevent high speed chases.

#### Cell Phone Usage while Driving.

Motorcyclists want restrictions on cell phone usage. I have looked at NHSTA reports, but my own experience using a cell phone indicates that it is a dangerous distraction while driving. HB357/SB1266 and S1314 are the most restrictive and also cover other dangerous distractions. I have personally seen automobile drivers, exceeding the speed limit in I95, reading newspapers or books. I realize that cell phones are used in a tremendous amount of daily business. HB175/SB266 would allow hands free usage, HB193/SB504 creates restrictions for those under 18 years of age, and S608 creates restrictions in school zones. I will be interested to find out how the legislature and general public feel about this issue.

#### Drivers Education

Informed motorcyclists support the accessibility and affordability for educating new drivers. At this time I do not know if HB1299/SB2678 are good bills.

#### Mandatory Riders Training for New Motorcycle License Endorsement.

The DHSMV is presently refining the language of the statute set to become effective this summer. My November 11, 2007 letter outlined my concerns. Hopefully the corrective language will be in one of the massive correction bills.

I personally like CS/SB282, which you sponsored. I will call the week prior to confirm the availability of someone to talk to.

Best regards,  
John Banta