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*Mike*  
TO: Members of the Nevada Assembly Transportation Committee

FM: Tom Keeton

RE: AB 171

I am appearing today to support Assembly Bill 171, introduced by Assemblyman Don Gustavson. This is a bill worthy of your support, of passage out of committee as quickly as possible, and passage by the Legislature.

Here are some thoughts on AB 171 I'd like to share with you:

Support of AB 171 will do two things to help our state's motorcycle safety program:

1. It will raise the limitation on the fee charged to \$150 from the current cap of \$100; and,
2. It will change the waiting time an instructor candidate must hold a motorcycle endorsement on his license from two years to one.

I hope you will support this bill and actively encourage your fellow members in the Assembly to also do so. I believe it is a sound bill and worthy of passage by the Legislature.

Raising the fee will help support the program at the very high levels of professionalism it has maintained to date. A fee of \$150 is hardly onerous to people who spend tens of thousands of dollars on Harley's, BMWs, Hondas, and myriad other motorcycles. Private schools already charge two and three times that amount and are well attended. Other states charge much higher fees and their classes remain filled. I do not seriously believe anyone will be deterred from attending the Motorcycle Safety Foundation type classes administered by our community colleges because of a possible fee of \$150.

Also, it's worth noting that these fees are essentially voluntary. It's entirely possible for any motorcycle owner to find a place to practice, trailer his bike to the DMV, and take a DMV test which will give him the exact same endorsement as can be achieved with the Nevada Rider course. I seriously doubt they will be as well qualified as those who go through the Nevada Rider system, but they CAN achieve the goal of an endorsement without any expense, whatsoever. So, the fees paid are, as I suggested above, truly voluntary.

AB 171 Support Page -1- [of 2]

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION

DATE: 3-13-03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT I

SUBMITTED BY: Tom Keeton

*I 1 of 2*

As to the second point, we have many fine "students" who go through our Nevada Rider classes who show great promise to become instructors. Many have returned to riding after some years absence and take the course as a means of renewing their skills and securing their endorsement, all at the same time.

Others are just plain "naturals" and you can tell it almost from the first instant they climb on a machine. They also exhibit the steady, no-nonsense approach we like to see in our "new" riders.

The selection process of Nevada Rider and the MSF is very rigid, and the training they must go through to achieve the rating is such that it instantly weeds out any "cowboys" or unsuitable instructors. It is a demanding course of study that covers a significant amount of time. In my own class there were 16 people who started and only five who finally graduated. All have proven excellent instructors.

The point being, of course, that the instructor selection and training program, alone, is sufficient to weed out any undesirable or unqualified applicants. The waiting time of two years is not necessary. One year is sufficient.

If it will ease your mind to any extent, people do not apply to be instructors unless they truly enjoy riding, which means they will have ridden quite a bit in their year's waiting time. They also do not apply unless they have a deep, internal desire to nurture and develop safe, responsible, highly skilled riders. Teaching these courses is very rewarding and fulfilling; but it's hardly a whole lot of fun. It's often bloody hard work on a 100-plus-degree day, with the wind whipping everyone every which way. People who are not dedicated, deeply safety-conscious individuals just don't do this kind of work.

You may have guessed, I have been an MSF qualified instructor for four years, now. I thoroughly enjoy the work and look forward to each new season with renewed enthusiasm. I hope you will consider AB 171 favorably and give it your full support.

If you have any questions regarding my points, I'll be happy to answer them at your convenience. <sup>HW, D</sup>  
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