betterbike.org
Good plans + safer roads = better biking

August 30, 2010

Honorable Mike Feuer,
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Feuer,

As an organizer of Better Bike Beverly Hills, a bike advocacy group here on the Westside of Los Angeles, I want to express my support for Senate Bill 910. We hear from community members that safety is the number one reason they are afraid to ride in and around Beverly Hills, with the threat of collision with automobile traffic a key concern. We share that view, and we are working with City of Beverly Hills officials and our school district administration to enact programs and improvements to make our streets safe for non-motor travel.

I urge you to vote for SB 910. Raising awareness about safety issues is paramount to cyclist safety. This 3-feet passing law will be the most effective way to communicate to motorists that cyclists need be regarded while also conveying to cyclists that we can expect under the law a margin of safety when being passed. Sanction and suits do little once the damage is done, so let's be proactive about minimizing opportunities for injurious contact.

California legislators have stepped up to make our state a leader where increased fuel efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions are concerned. We can join the many states that have passed 3-feet passing buffer legislation. Next we should take the steps necessary to make our roads safe for all road users. Cyclists are ready to do our part to reduce emissions and road congestion, but we can't encourage people to cycle without providing safe conditions for non-motor travel.

The rough bargain in which we bear the risks and motorists shoulder financial liability is no longer workable. I stand with the California Bicycle Coalition and our regional partner, the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition, in supporting SB 910. I know many of our Better Bike members do as well. Pass this bill and let's give bicyclists the space we need on California roads.

Sincerely,

Mark Elliot

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