



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 19, 2010

Mr. Edward Moreland
Vice President, Government Relations
American Motorcyclist Association
101 Constitution Avenue NW, Suite 800W
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Moreland:

Thank you for your letter of April 2 regarding my testimony on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) fiscal year 2011 budget, before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. In your letter you ask about my testimony concerning motorcycle safety and motorcycle helmet use.

The agency's motorcycle safety program is a comprehensive effort that focuses on both crash and injury prevention, specifically increasing the use of DOT-compliant motorcycle helmets, reducing the incidence of impaired riding, increasing proper licensure of riders, increasing rider participation in motorcycle training courses and improving driver awareness of motorcyclists.

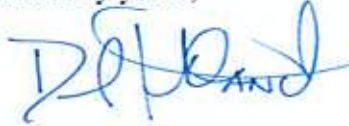
The core component of our program has not changed; it is to increase helmet use. This means that NHTSA recognizes that no other single countermeasure offers a comparable body of supporting scientific evidence confirming its potential for saving the lives of motorcyclists. With finite resources and the severity of the motorcycle fatality problem, we need to focus efforts on countermeasures that are known to be most effective. As I stated at the House hearing, there is a direct correlation between helmet use and motorcycle fatalities. In response to a question asked by Congressman Olver, I stated "Anything that the Congress does that would support the movement of riders into helmets would be efficacious of safety."

Under my leadership, NHTSA will continue a comprehensive motorcycle safety program focusing on crash and injury prevention and the core of the program will be to increase helmet use. In addition, we will support and implement any program Congress determines necessary to reach our mutual goal of preventing motorcycle fatalities.



Thank you for your letter and the opportunity to explain my congressional testimony. I look forward to working with your organization and others on evidence-based strategies to reduce motorcycle fatalities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Strickland". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

David L. Strickland