



**ABATE of North Idaho, Inc.**  
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Tim "TJ" Herzog  
State Deputy Coordinator

*"Dedicated to  
Education, Awareness and  
Freedom of the Road"*

March, 20, 2006

Chuc Coulter  
Idaho Coalition For Motorcycle Safety, Inc.  
PO Box 2732  
Boise, Idaho 83701

Dear Chuc,

This letter is an effort to preserve the integrity of ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. and to maintain respect of its membership in the eyes of all motorcyclists, State and National Motorcyclists Rights Organizations.

Let me begin by saying that I *truly respect* the ICMS for its many years of involvement in the political arena in the preservation of Biker's Rights and its efforts to promote and introduce legislation that truly is beneficial to the motorcycling community. I also hold the Motorcycle Riders Foundation in high regard in their efforts to preserve and defend motorcyclists across our nation. Both have contributed *greatly* to the interests of motorcyclists. I was a Charter Member of the MRF and held a paid and then an *Honorary Membership* in the ICMS plus participated on the steering committee from a distance. At one time I was considered to serve as an MRF Rep. Currently, I am not a member of either but that fact is not an indication that I don't fully support the efforts of both.

I have worked fervently in the past as an officer of ANI with the ICMS, rallying our members to help ICMS with the defeat of HB301 in 1991, and then later in support of Idaho's Motorcycle Endorsement legislation. We took *considerable heat* from many members regarding that issue but we defended the ICMS and its goals to implement that program. I also supported and promoted the MRF to our membership at a time that we were dealing with (ISTEA) Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act in 1991, as it applied to Federal Blackmail and mandatory helmets. More recently, ABATE of North Idaho and its membership supported S1179 to address funding issues with our Idaho STAR (Skills Training Advantage for Riders) rider education program.

My recent return as an elected officer to ANI was *to further the original goals of this organization*. I personally strive to promote and encourage *grass roots activism* among our ranks and to take a *pro-active stance* in the political arena and to promote ANI's identity as a leader in its own rights.

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The introduction of S1367, sponsored by Senator Jorgenson was initiated by Willie Stephenson and I after finding out that Washington State had a similar bill pending and several other states had already implemented such legislation. The Senator felt that this had considerable merit and after contacting both the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho State Police, he was encouraged and offered to be a sponsor. Later Senator Brandt agreed to be a co-sponsor. On January 8th, 2006, we explained the merits of this proposed legislation to our membership present and asked for a vote of support by the board. If successful, this bill would be a credit to ABATE of North Idaho, Inc. and also the *first ever* piece of legislation that ANI and its members initiated.

I truly regret that my recent statement of facts regarding ICMS's opposition to S1367 was taken with much displeasure by many. My intention was not in any way to portray the MRF as being in opposition to S1367 and I recognize that they had *absolutely* no involvement in the ICMS's decision. I am though in a quandary, regarding ICMS's stance and opposition to this bill. I fully understand that a technical solution to the stoplight signalization problem as it applies to motorcycles may be possible. However, a solution of that magnitude could take years to implement and possibly come at much cost. S1367 was intended simply to offer motorcyclists in Idaho, as in other states, a legal or lawful way to address the problem until a more viable and permanent solution is implemented, if ever.

I look forward to working with ICMS to keep ABATE of North Idaho's relationship in good standing, and with all other organizations to promote mutual respect for each organization's goals.

Respectfully yours,

Tim J. Herzog  
Legislative Chairman

cc: karen bolin, mrf