Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: Motorcyclist Advisory Council Creation

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As active representatives of the motorcycle riders in our district, we are proud of the Motorcyclist Advisory Council Reauthorization Act in 2021 which reestablishes the Motorcyclist Advisory Committee (MAC). This bill became law in Section 2411 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). However, more than a year after this bill became law the MAC has still not been reestablished. We write to you to reestablish this committee.

Most recently reestablished under the 2015 FAST ACT, the MAC provides a critical forum for policy makers, roadway engineers, and motorcyclists to discuss ways roadway and barrier design, construction and maintenance practices, and intelligent transportation systems can better meet the safety needs of the nearly 9 million motorcyclists in this country.

Unfortunately, despite the requirement that the MAC be established within 90 days of enactment it appears no such action has been taken. While we understand the many priorities you manage at the Department of Transportation, this critical Council must be instated to ensure the safety of motorcyclists. The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on motorcyclist safety was severe with motorcyclist fatalities rising 11% in 2020, another 9% in 2021, and NHTSA's early estimates¹ show further increases in 2022. The need to address motorcyclist safety is dire and we hope to see action by your office on the MAC soon.

One important part of the reestablished MAC, as outlined in the text of the law, is the expansion of membership seats. The inclusion of manufacturers, motorcyclist rights organizations and safety professionals will no doubt provide for a more expansive knowledge base and information sharing on the council. As prescribed in the law, the MAC will be required to submit biennial reports to your office.

Motorcycles play a key part of our transportation network. Ensuring that our roads and infrastructure can meet the unique challenges motorcyclists face is imperative. For over a century motorcycling has been an iconic part of the fabric of America. A larger and diverse MAC will play a part protecting motorcyclists while ensuring our roads are safe for all users. We look forward to the formation of the MAC and its forthcoming biennial reports.

¹NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts: Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Sub-Categories Through June 2022 <u>https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813405</u>

Thank you for your attention, we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Gallagher Member of Congress

Brad Finstad Member of Congress

Ralph Norman Member of Congress

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Derrick Van Orden Member of Congress

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Susie Lee Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson Member of Congress

Pete Stauber Member of Congress

Bryan Steil Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald Member of Congress

Joz Wilson

Joe Wilson Member of Congress

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