

[Your Name and Address]

[Date]

Dear [name of your premier or governor],

I'm writing in support of cycling safety in [name your province/state]. Cycling is a fabulous sport that promotes health and fitness. It's fun and it's good for the environment. But cycling can also be dangerous, largely because of collisions motor-vehicles have with cyclists. The sport is safe but the roads aren't.

Every year thousands of cyclists are injured, maimed and many killed in [name your province/state]. Cyclists are 7 to 70 times more likely to be injured per trip or per kilometer/mile traveled than car occupants. Most North American cities do not have an adequate number of bike lanes for commuters to ride on safely. This means that cyclists have to share the road with two-ton vehicles. But our government has not legislated "safe passing" laws. This puts cyclists at risk.

If the [name your province/state] is committed to a greener, sustainable environment, it's critical to get cars off the roads and get as many bikes on the roads as possible. It's time to stand up for cyclists. We need:

- A policy that requires municipal governments to install a proper cycling infrastructure in all [name your province/state] towns and cities
- 4 foot wide paved shoulders on rural, 2-lane roads and all secondary highways in [name your province/state]
- A "Safe Passing" law, 3 feet minimum. Increased punishments for hurting/killing a cyclist with car, under all circumstances
- Advertising in all media to educate motorists about sharing the roads safely with cyclists
- Change the insurance laws so that cyclists don't bear the costs in crashes and collisions
- Forbid car parking in bike lanes, similar to what has been done for handicapped parking
- Force all cities to include bike parking and infrastructure in its planning, ie "complete streets," all new developments with included minimum bike parking requirements
- Include a comprehensive module on cycling in driver's education for **all** classes of drivers
- Provide funding for cycling education programs for kids, and making it part of the education curriculum, either CAN-BIKE or something based on CAN-BIKE
- Remove habitually unsafe drivers from the road permanently, including repeat drunk driving offenders and people who drive without license/insurance

Yours Sincerely,

[your name]