



Motorcycle Riders Foundation

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Dr. Runge,

I am contacting you regarding your remarks aimed at motorcyclists and motorcycling delivered at the recent Lifesavers Conference in Charlotte. Numerous Motorcycle Rider Foundation (MRF) members have notified our Washington D.C. office expressing outrage at being referred to as "a scourge on the nations highways" and "an epidemic". They have also referenced your assertion that motorcyclists "continue to clog the trauma centers of America". I find it remarkable and disturbing that the head of a federal agency, dedicated to safety and responsible solutions, would offer such irresponsible and egregious remarks.

The MRF, through our member organizations, represents over 200,000 motorcyclists nationwide. I can assure you every one of them is aware of the increase in motorcycle fatalities, and finds this an issue of genuine concern. We are actively involved, both on the state and national level, in pursuing legislation that will enhance motorcycle safety.

I am asking that you apologize, retract or clarify your remarks. I would also suggest that working in partnership with motorcyclists might produce results. Offering inflammatory, polarizing and erroneous remarks will not save a single life.

The MRF will be filing a formal complaint with the office of Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation. Copies of this letter will be delivered to the Offices of the Chairmen, House and Senate Transportation Committees.

I look forward to your response.

Karen Bolin
MRF President

CC: Rob Rasor, American Motorcyclist Association
Ken Kiphart, State Motorcycle Safety Administrators
Wayne Curtin, Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company
David Searle, Motorcycle Consumer News
MRF Board of Directors