

Reply To:

135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
TTY: (202) 224-4479
e-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

721 Federal Building
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309-2140
(515) 284-4890

206 Federal Building
101 1st Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1227
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

November 29, 2007

Reply To:

103 Federal Courthouse Building
320 6th Street
Sioux City, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 Waterloo Building
531 Commercial Street
Waterloo, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

131 West 3rd Street
Suite 180
Davenport, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-4331

307 Federal Building
8 South 6th Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

Mr. Steve Rector
1905 South 3rd Avenue
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

Dear Mr. Rector:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. It is always good to hear from motorcyclists back home.

I appreciate knowing of your concerns regarding the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations for motorcycle safety issued September 11, 2007, especially their focus on a universal helmet law.

I sent a letter to the National Transportation Board (NTSB) forwarding a letter from ABATE of Iowa that outlines the specific concerns with the recent NTSB recommendations as well as ABATE's recommendations to the NTSB to develop comprehensive accident prevention recommendations based on current and future research. I asked that the NTSB give these concerns all due consideration. I will be back in touch with you as soon as the response is received in my office.

I favor the use of helmets for motorcycle drivers and riders. There are a variety of respected studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of helmets. For instance, more than 80 percent of all motorcycle accidents result in injury or death to the motorcyclist. Physicians characterize trauma in motorcycle crashes as the worst trauma they treat outside of a combat zone. However, I also agree that we should be encouraging accident prevention and road safety.

Laws governing motorcycle helmets have traditionally been under the authority of the state governments. Generally, I oppose federal legislation that forces states to comply with government mandates at the risk of losing federal funds.

Therefore, since this is largely a state issue, I encourage you to contact your state legislators if you have not already done so. You may call the Iowa State Capitol at 515/281-5011 for information regarding your state representative and senator so that you can share your views with them. They deal with this matter more directly and need to hear from you so that they can effectively do their job. You may also wish to contact Governor Chet Culver by writing to him at the Iowa Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Committee Assignments:

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
JUDICIARY

Chairman.
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I hope that you will continue to keep me informed of federal matters that are important to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck".

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/mm