My name is Mark “Mack” Backlund and I am the State Coordinator of American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education (ABATE) of Minnesota. For 25 years, ABATE of Minnesota has supported the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Program in many ways. ABATE of MN supports the Motorcycle Road Guard Certificate program with the following changes:

- The stop sign paddle requirement is unworkable for a motorcycle rider. At the December 18th hearing there was much discussion on the reasons why. While the DOT maintains the paddles are necessary, discussion at the hearing revealed the DOT manual can be easily changed to allow a certified road guard who is wearing a safety vest to use only his or her hand. Note the use of only a hand and the fact that there is no squad car in the vicinity. This is essentially, what a motorcycle road guard would look like without a stop paddle. I call your attention to these photos from the Star and Tribune:

![Photo 1](http://www.startribune.com/local/south/238676441.html)

- A point raised at the hearing was that the rule regarding the BAC level of a Road Guard was inexact at best. The rule should be changed to .04 to establish a precise description.

- The liability insurance rule should be deleted. Instead, during the Road Guard certification training, instructors should stress the impact of being sued while in the act of Road Guarding. This warning will convince anyone that the associated risks without insurance are not worth putting everything they own in jeopardy.

ABATE of Minnesota’s expectation is that any costs associated with the training be kept as low as possible. Also that the training be available evenings and weekends and offered through Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Program instructors. Additionally, the gear and requirements to conduct motorcycle road guarding should not be overly complex. If the training and costs are too complicated or expensive and the requirements overly burdensome, interest will be low and people will not participate, defeating the intent of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark “Mack” Backlund
State Coordinator
ABATE of MN