



September 16th, 2016

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

Duo-Gard Industries is pleased to provide 100% support for the bicycle safety package currently before this committee. On behalf of our 70-plus person company, I strongly urge you and your colleagues to vote in favor of SB1029, SB1030, SB1076, SB1077, and SB1078. These bills will be instrumental in protecting vulnerable roadway users and create clear standards for how to pass a bicyclist, as well as improving driver's education in Michigan that will focus on bicycle safety. These initiatives are sorely needed in our state.

Duo-Gard is a manufacturing company located in Canton, Michigan and we have grown significantly over the past 15 years from one manufacturing location to four locations in our state. Our growth in part is related to our bicycle infrastructure products we have developed and distributed throughout North America. Our bike shelters and bike parking Products offer cities excellent solutions for multi-modal transportation implementation. Without increased safety measures on the forefront, walking and bicycling will **not** be able to flourish in Michigan and provide sustainable and effective transportation as we see rapidly happening around the world.

I have been taken aback in the past couple of years in watching the bicycling deaths that have occurred in our state – that could have been prevented. I live in Ann Arbor which has a fairly sophisticated bicycling population. What is sorely evident is the typical driver does not have a very good idea of how to drive while bicyclists are on the road. It is a scary situation for the riders! My son recently took drivers training and it was alarming that there was close to zero content regarding car and bicycle road rules - or even guidelines. We have to do better now, and with these bills Michigan can take a big step forward.

I believe as a state we need to take a leadership role in educating drivers in Michigan (as well as bicyclists and pedestrians) to provide much safer roadways. When a bicyclist or pedestrian is killed in our state, it is an absolute tragedy. As legislators you can lead the way toward positive change for Michigan.

Duo-Gard Industries is very encouraged by the extensive public support for these bills and the broad support from the legislature. Thank you for your leadership and support in advancing Michigan motorist education and these important measures to improve the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Arvidson", written in a cursive style.

Michael Arvidson
Executive Vice President