



**ABATE of New York, Inc., P.O. Box 300, Walker Valley, NY 12588-0300
1-888-344-4400 www.abateny.org**

PRESS RELEASE

Motorcyclists to Picket the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference

FROM: Timothy D. Werder, ABATE of New York State President

DATE: May 4, 2009

On Wednesday, May 6th, American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE of New York, Inc.) and other motorcyclists will picket the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety (ESLETS) Conference at the Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center at 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY where the New York State Police are anticipated to present their Motorcycle Safety Roadblock Scenario and other "Hot Motorcycle Topics" to a broad and diverse cross-section of New York's law enforcement community.

For nearly two years now, the New York State Police (NYSP) have been conducting highway roadblocks diverting only motorcyclists from the state's roadways to perform "safety checks". "Operation 5060" was expanded in 2008 and continues to-date. Ironically, last year New York State raided \$552,000 of dedicated motorcycle safety funds, created through mandated increased motorcycle registration costs. In fact, even though State Finance Law explicitly prohibits it, over the course of the eleven-year existence of the dedicated motorcycle safety fund, New York State has inappropriately diverted millions of dollars into the state's general fund.

It remains ABATE of New York's position that, since motorcycles operated in New York are already required to pass annual safety inspections, the current NYSP initiative continues to serve only to harass, intimidate and inconvenience motorcyclists traveling upon the state's roadways. Further, motorcycle-only roadblocks of this nature are a discriminatory and unconstitutional infringement upon an individual's right to travel without interference, and an abuse of discretionary power as acknowledged by the New York State Court of Appeals. ABATE of New York demands that NYS and the NYSP redirect their combined efforts toward overall driver education of the presence of motorcyclists on the state's roadways.

It is also ABATE of New York's position that New York State has inadequately administered its dedicated motorcycle safety fund designed specifically to instruct motorcyclists in proper operating techniques and safety initiatives. There remain insufficient sites statewide to provide motorcycle training and the cost remains prohibitive in nature. Motorcyclists suffer due to the underutilization and misapplication of their funds, and a more cost-effective approach should be implemented, subsidized by these raided funds. ABATE of New York decries New York State's history of unlawfully diverting motorcyclists' safety fund money to the general fund, and continues its support of legislative efforts prohibiting the transfer of dedicated fees into any other fund.

Motorcyclists demand that their dedicated safety funds be used for motorcycle safety TRAINING initiatives, not motorcycle safety ENFORCEMENT initiatives. The latter should clearly not precede the former.

ABATE of New York was established in 1974, and incorporated in 1991 as a 501c4 not-for-profit corporation representing the rights of all New York State motorcyclists.

For further information, contact:
ABATE of New York, Inc.
P.O. Box 300
Walker Valley, NY 12588
(888) 344-4400
www.abateny.org

or
Susan Q. Long
Public Relations Officer
585-690-7747