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PRESS RELEASE

ABATE of New York to Picket the NY Highway Safety Conference

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

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On Tuesday, October 21st, American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE of New York, Inc.) will picket the New York Highway Safety Conference at the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel & Conference Center at 801 University Avenue, Syracuse, NY, where the New York State Police are presenting their Motorcycle Safety Roadblock Scenario to more than 350 professionals from local, state, federal and private agencies involved in the effort to reduce deaths and injuries related to traffic crashes.

For a year now, the New York State Police (NYSP) have been conducting highway roadblocks which divert only motorcyclists from the state's roadways for the purpose of conducting "safety checks", and the NYSP has vastly expanded the program in 2008. Ironically, during this same one-year period, New York State (NYS) again raided dedicated motorcycle safety funds to the tune of \$552,000. Even though State Finance Law explicitly prohibits it, over the course of the ten-year existence of the registration-funded motorcycle safety fund, NYS has repeatedly raided the dedicated funds, diverting millions of dollars into the state's general fund.

It is 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 serves 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 specifically acknowledged by the New York State Court of Appeals. ABATE of New York demands that the NYSP and NYS 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 inadequately administers its dedicated motorcycle safety fund designed specifically to instruct motorcyclists in proper operating techniques and safety initiatives. There are insufficient sites statewide to provide motorcycle training, and the cost is 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 demands that New York State stop unlawfully diverting motorcyclists' safety fund money to the general fund, and supports current legislative efforts A10732/S7976, prohibiting the transfer of dedicated fees into any other fund.

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:

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