

Riin Gill
Ann Arbor, Michigan

February 28, 2003

D. O.
Director of Transportation
Unidentified Trucking Company

Dear Mr. O.,

On December 23, 2002 at approximately 5:20 pm I was cycling home from work on southbound Packard Road north of Pine Valley Boulevard when M.H. passed dangerously close to me in a Kroger delivery truck. He passed so close, the side of the truck actually touched my handlebar. While I was waiting for the police to arrive at Kroger Store 472 where he was making his delivery, Mr. H. came to talk to me. He was argumentative and insisted he had not bumped me since he had not felt anything. This was a ridiculous argument. The bump had occurred mere inches from my hand; did he think I could be mistaken? I have since consulted two truck drivers who have confirmed my suspicions that he could not have possibly felt anything. For him to insist that because he had not felt anything, nothing had occurred, was completely unrealistic. He went on to display his ignorance of the legal rights of cyclists, implying that I should have been riding my bicycle on the sidewalk. Cyclists have the legal right to ride on the road and have all the rights of a vehicle operator in all 50 states.

I am enclosing a copy of the police report, which backs my account.

Mr. H. was in clear violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949, section 257.636(1a), which states: The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance to the left of that vehicle, and when safely clear of the overtaken vehicle shall take up a position as near the right-hand edge of the main traveled portion of the highway as is practicable.

If Mr. H. had knocked me off balance, I would have fallen. I very likely would have fallen under the truck and been run over. I would have been killed. I don't think I really need to remind you of the huge lawsuit you would have had on your hands.

I want you to instruct all your drivers about the legal rights of cyclists. Remind them of the MVC section I cited above. Your drivers should pass cyclists with at least 3 feet of clearance. If they are not able to do that within the same lane, they need to change lanes. They will have to follow at a safe distance, if necessary, waiting for a safe opportunity to pass. I am enclosing a fact sheet for you to make copies of and distribute to all of your drivers, post on bulletin boards, etc. As professional drivers, they have a duty to understand how to safely share the road with cyclists.

I also want you to speak to Mr. H. about his attitude and note his reckless driving in his personnel record. He displayed a callous disregard for my life which was inexcusable.

Please respond to me in writing within two weeks of receipt of this letter and tell me what action you are taking.

Sincerely,

Riin Gill

Enclosures

Cc: Kroger Company