

# ABATE News By Jim Page



Have you ever wondered how the government and corporations can get away with what it does concerning motorcycles?

I mean. If you took the impact that Motorcycles make in the whole grand scheme of things and converted it to a measure of distance, it would be about a quarter inch on a football field.

Here in Maricopa County we have the distinction of being the only county in the United States that has to take our bikes through emissions. We don't even get the option of going through every other year.

I asked one of our representatives why this was. I was told that every little bit helps. Meanwhile the developers are tearing down houses and putting up apartment buildings and multi-family units faster than you can say antisocialdisestablishmentarianism. (Ha! My Spell check just froze up.) This is bringing more trucks, automobiles and airplanes in the valley. But rest assured that you taking your bike through emissions is keeping the air clean.

Or how about the fact that some health insurance companies can refuse payments if you are injured while riding a motorcycle. This is because of a loophole in the HIPPA act that was signed by Bill Clinton when he was President. Before that, these health insurance companies could just refuse to cover you. Now they have to cover you, but they can just refuse payments by saying you were involved in a "recreational activity" (BTW Check your policies) that's right they can take your money and say "sorry. We don't cover that."

Here's one more. The government uses VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) statistics to tell the country that motorcycle ridership is down. Even though there are twice as many motorcycles on the road as there were 4 years ago. It seems that some states like South Dakota report zero VMT for motorcycles. I guess it's true that everybody trailers their bikes to Sturgis after all.

So how do these entities get away with what they are doing? It's because they don't think anybody is watching. They don't think anybody really cares if they keep passing laws and regulations that water down our lifestyle to the point it isn't our lifestyle anymore.

You know what? Judging by membership in your Motorcycle Rights Organizations, they are 99.99 percent right.

Join ABATE and/or MMA today before you are all wearing pink jumpsuits and riding Vespa's.

## **Jim Page**

Member

ABATE of AZ, MMA, MRF, AZCMC