

## Kishwaukee Valley Chapter, ABATE of IL Legislative Report; January 2012

**NEW LAWS IN ILLINOIS** – ABATE did celebrate its 4<sup>th</sup> veto over-ride in defeating the governor's amendatory veto of the "dead red light bill". That means that after January 1<sup>st</sup>, if you encounter a red light that doesn't sense your bike & change within 2 minutes, it will be legal for you to proceed through the intersection with caution. You must wait the full 120 seconds before proceeding to avoid a ticket. Also new this year, Illinois' seat belt law applies to all vehicle occupants and becomes a primary enforcement offense. (ie: you can be stopped and ticketed for simply not wearing a seat belt).

**STOP EPA DUST REGULATION** - The "Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011." would exempt rural "nuisance dust" from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation and allow states and localities to regulate it. This regulatory restraint could lead to a ban of OHV use on racetracks, in designated recreation areas, on trails and even on private property all across this country. Our own congressman, Don Manzullo has signed on as a co-sponsor of the house bill and Sen. Mark Kirk has co-sponsored the senate version. H.R.1633 passed in the House 268 – 150 on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**WE SUPPORT S.1449** – On December 14<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation passed the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act (S. 1449) by voice vote. Earlier in the week, Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) filed an amendment that would have gutted federal motorcycle education and awareness grants. This amendment would force states to pass mandatory universal helmet laws and drive federal tax dollars to be used to promote the use of helmets and make it easier for helmet law states to obtain safety grant money while providing no money for awareness or training. Lautenberg did not call that amendment for a vote due to an overwhelming response from the motorcycle community. Also under attack was the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) lobby ban which prohibits NHTSA from using federal money to lobby State legislatures, uninvited. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) introduced a number of amendments to maintain the ban and the necessary amendments were agreed to, by unanimous consent of the full committee.

**YOUR FREEDOM ISN'T FREE** – 2012 is an election year beginning with the March 20<sup>th</sup> primaries to pick each party's candidates for federal, state and local offices. The strength and influence that ABATE enjoys is the result of our political activism. To maintain that reputation requires that we be able to muster the troops quickly when called on to make a call, help a friendly candidate or attend an event or meeting. To that end, it's time for me to update my database of Kishwaukee Valley ABATE activists. If you're willing to do your part, I need your name, phone number and email address. I'll keep your information confidential. Whenever I send something out, I "blind carbon copy" (bcc) everybody on the list so no one sees any email address other than their own. For the next several month's I'll have volunteer sign up sheets at our membership meeting; or you can just contact me via email at [kelleydvd@aol.com](mailto:kelleydvd@aol.com) or call 815-874-6345. It's time to step up to the plate!

**QUOTABLE QUOTE:** "My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government." – Thomas Jefferson