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PRESS RELEASE

ABATE of New York Opposes State's Motorcycle Roadblock Initiative & Supports NCOM Class-Action Lawsuit

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

DATE: May 31, 2008

American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE of New York, Inc.) expresses its opposition to New York State's burgeoning tactic of conducting highway roadblocks which divert only motorcyclists from the state's roadways for the purpose of conducting "safety checks", and hereby expresses its support of a today-announced class-action initiative by the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) against the NYS Police and the NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

Motorcycle-only roadblocks were established in October, 2007 targeting motorcyclists traveling on I-84 to a Marcus Dairy Cycle Sunday gathering in nearby Danbury, CT. The implementation of these roadblocks has been vastly expanded in 2008, targeting motorcyclists attending the 24th-annual AM-JAM event in Cobleskill, NY, and the annual Americade Rally in Lake George, NY, the largest touring motorcyclist rally in the nation. Border crossings are also reportedly scheduled for the targeted roadblock initiative in upcoming weeks.

It is ABATE of New York's position that, since motorcycles operated in New York State are already required to pass annual safety inspections, the current NYS Police initiative serves only to harass, intimidate and inconvenience motorcyclists traveling upon the state's roadways. Further, ABATE of New York is of the opinion that motorcycle-only roadblocks conducted in the name of "safety checks" 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 feels that New York State inadequately administers its dedicated motorcycle safety fund designed specifically to instruct motorcyclists in proper operating techniques and safety initiatives, and that, since the majority of motorcycle-related accidents remain the result of violations of a motorcyclist's right-of-way by other vehicle operators, New York State should redirect its efforts toward overall driver education to the presence of motorcyclists on the state's roadways.

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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