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To: Assistant to the Transportation Committee Chair, Megan Cannella at [mcannella@leg.state](mailto:mcannella@leg.state)

Re: In support of noise limits for S-66

I am a 78-year-old lifetime Vermonter who fails to appreciate intolerably and obnoxious noise levels due to loud mufflers - or lack thereof – mostly from pickup trucks and motorcycles. The vehicular noise levels are omnipresent; an intentional in-your-face expression of menace and hostility, with a disregard for their fellow citizens. The plethora of unmuffled motorcycles and “enhanced” pickups is disruptive and painful to the ears.

There are so many important and often competing “needs” for our state to address, so the pursuit of tranquility may seem minor. However, as a State that prides itself on clean living and good health; encouraging a more "peaceful" environment would be an appropriate goal. Jake brakes and unmuffled vehicles should be restricted.

The trampled “rights” of the citizenry are not the unmuffled drivers who express themselves without restraint or regret. It lies with the rest of us who simply accept the status quo of unmitigated noise. Most people may not realize we can do something about it.

A few towns in Vermont ( most notably and sensible one is St. Albans noise ordinance) have already passed noise ordinances of differing degrees of language and enforcement. It addresses noise from vehicles, motorcycles and boom boxes. In St. Albans' ordinance, enforcement measurement is left to common sense versus requiring a decibel meter. People don't turn their heads when most of us start our vehicles as there is little sound. Police should not have to stand in the rain, 50' from a vehicle, holding a decibel meter to decide if the vehicle is emitting a loud sound. The majority of vehicles and perhaps ½ of the motorcycles, by design, emit no untoward sounds. Even Harley Davidson proclaims they market bikes that are preset at 80 decibels when they leave production lines to HD showrooms. However, after they leave the showroom.....

Although ATVs, skidoos and motorboats are addressed (in statutes) at reasonable levels of noise at 82 decibels; abysmally lacking is any reference to muffling the exhaust for vehicles located in the one sentence of 23 VSA § 1221. Condition of vehicle “A motor vehicle, operated on any highway, shall be in good mechanical condition and shall be properly equipped.” And that's it!

One might argue that this issue isn't the most important focus for our law officers. It may not be, however, encouraging civility at any age and place is an important first step for respecting other societal norms.