

***A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania***  
***Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education***

**POSITION**

**Sound "Noise" Management**

Motorcycle sales are at a record high. That's good news for the industry as well as the after market business. It's also good news for us in the motorcycling community. More riders translate into bigger and better cycling events. But with the additional motorcycles on the road, comes a higher visibility and awareness of bikes.

In the real world not everyone is as excited about motorcycles as we are. Not everyone appreciates the sound emitted by bikes fitted with after-market pipes that increase sound levels and especially those that run straight pipes.

Noise is quickly coming to the forefront of complaints regarding motorcycles. Some communities are already making plans on how to deal with large groups of potentially noisy motorcycles coming into their communities.

A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of the battle to protect certain freedoms that motorcyclists regard as "rights", such as the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a helmet. We have enjoyed success in some of these areas, and believe that these successes must also make us aware of and respectful of those freedoms that the non-motorcycling community also regards as rights.

The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness applies to all citizens, not just motorcycle riders. In the same way our right to choose whether or not to wear a helmet is a priority to us and a "quality of life issue", so too is the noise issue a priority for non-riders and an issue they view as a "right" or entitlement."

If we fail to assume the responsibility that comes with the freedom we so passionately sought, we risk losing the support and credibility that we have established with our legislators in Harrisburg.

A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania's official position on excessive motorcycle noise is that we accept the current state noise level requirements based on the PA Administrative Code Title 67, Part 1, Subpart A, Article VII Chapter 157, Subchapter B, Section 157.11, Paragraph a: Max A-weighted sound levels as measured at 50 feet: 84dba at 35 mph or less; 88dba above 35 mph.

Additionally, A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania does not oppose uniform statewide vehicle noise statutes that would apply equally to all vehicles. We believe that our members and the motorcycling community at large would "do their part" to reduce vehicle noise if all sources of excessive vehicular noise were subject to the same standards and level of enforcement.

We do vigorously attack any attempt to "single us out" in terms of enforcement or penalties because such proposals treat us differently than all other users of the road.

As Members of A.B.A.T.E. of Pennsylvania we realize that we cannot live in isolation, unaware of the effect of motorcycle noise on the public at large. Therefore, we voluntarily will maintain our motorcycles to a standard that will allow us to coexist in harmony with the community at large.