

Amy McDonald, as you likely know, two years have passed since my husband, Jason, was killed while cycling on KAIT-8 road. Our family is starting to heal and trying to find some sense of peace with the loss of someone we loved oh so much. Yesterday was my youngest son's 8th birthday. This was the 3rd birthday Jason missed and it has really been a struggle to explain what happened on June 8, 2016 to my children. I have a heavy burden on my heart that I'm hoping you can help me with. Basically, I'm here because I am asking for your support. I need to know that you will help back the cycling community as we strive to make the penalties for overtaking a cyclist more fitting for the incidents which are occurring. I am currently speaking to Senator John Cooper and also Representative Brandt Smith regarding drafting a bill to stiffen the consequences of someone striking, hitting or even killing a cyclist. The laws are not adequate in punishing the actions of those who disobey them. They definitely are not a deterrent. The person who killed my husband was fined the maximum for killing someone which was \$1,000. That fine along with other fines and fees made the consequence of taking my husband's life worth less than \$2,000!

I hope you will support me and the rest of the cycling community in this cause. I would like for you to be vocal about this issue and let the town of Jonesboro, and the community you serve, know where you stand regarding safety for cyclists. As of now, you have assisted in making the month of May a cycling awareness month and I am so very grateful to you for doing so. You are also an instrumental part in making the sidewalks and our roads better for future plans regarding cycling. I truly appreciate the steps you have all taken and the gesture to show your support for the cycling community. However, I am very concerned about the enforcement of the existing laws regarding cycling and motor vehicles here in Jonesboro. I have not met with Chief Elliott regarding enforcement of the laws but others have and have not had great success. I do plan to meet with Chief Elliott very soon. I would like to ask that the city start to lead by example. Would you consider making all city workers, including JPD, to take a cyclist safety class? This would be the first step the city could take in educating itself on cycling laws. Ultimately, I would love to see the City of Jonesboro, adopt a National Driving program which includes a cycle friendly driver program. Cycling safety is a concern and Jonesboro has a growing cycling community. I want to help bridge the gap. I know the cycling community wants to help make Jonesboro a better place to ride, one that everyone feels safe to do so no matter what path a cyclist decides to take. To do this, the 3-foot law needs to be enforced. I want to see how I can help, along with the cycling community, to make this law enforceable, what can be done about the videos showing this violation and how can we help to educate the police department and other citizens about the laws for cycling and motorist safety? I truly believe together as a community, we can accomplish great things...but we all must work together to do so and have the confidence and support of those that govern our communities. I'll leave you with a couple quotes: Albert Einstein said: "What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right." Martin Luther King, Jr. also said, "Law and order exists for the purpose of establishing justice and when they fail in this purpose, they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress."