Some more news for va:

Official Boycott Statement

ABATE of Colorado on this date January 25, 2005 is officially calling for a boycott of the Red River Run and Taos County New Mexico. This decision is based on the lack of justice involved in motorcycle accidents in this County. Several accidents occur in this county every year, one occurring May of 2004, 2 ABATE of Colorado members were killed and their passengers maimed. The Taos County D.A. has failed to provide justice to any of the victims, i.e. charges have been dropped. As of this writing, we have been told that the case is going to Clovis, Curry County New Mexico for "review". Curry DA's office has no information on this case. A killer is on the roads in this county. We realize the implications this may have on small businesses. However, losing some money is a small price to pay for loss of lives. The boycott is being advocated in the hopes that: 1) charges are filed against perpetrators and justice prevail 2) the residents of this county will think about the impact and vote accordingly for their elected officials.

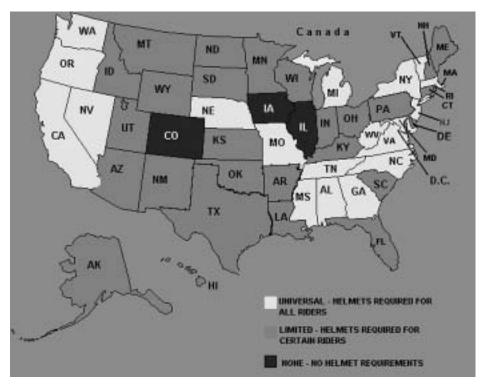
ABATE of Colorado is asking for your support as a motorcyclist by not attending the 2005 Red River Rally. You be the judge. More information can be found on our website, www.abateofcolo.org.

After reading the facts, please contact the officials listed and voice your opinion. On behalf of the State Board of DirectorsTerry Howard State Coordinator. Contact information for New Mexico:

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Helmet laws for the U.S.

#05NR03 - Highway Bill Passes US House - US Senate Introduces HIPAA Fix

The US House of Representatives passed a comprehensive Highway and Mass Transit package (HR 3) Thursday afternoon. The measure cleared the chamber with 417 members voting in favor and 9 opposing. "I'm glad to see such overwhelming support for our bill today in the House," House Highway Subcommittee Chairman Tom Petri (R-WI) said. "Now we need the Senate to move quickly so that we can get to conference to produce a long term program in support of our nation's vital infrastructure."

"The tremendous majority is evidence of how badly this long overdue legislation is needed around the country," said Jeff Hennie Vice President of Government Relations for the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF). The package has been forthcoming since October 2003, when the last bill expired.

The bill contains several motorcycle safety provisions that aim to reduce accidents and save lives on our nations roads through education and sound road design. The motorcycle language was included after heavy lobbing efforts by the MRF and many State Motorcycle Rights Organizations (SMRO's).

The MRF would like to extend the highest praises to all of the SMRO's and individuals who worked for the inclusion of the motorcycle safety language.

The current highway and mass transit programs have been operating on a series of extensions, the current extension expires on May 31, 2005. Jeff Hennie also noted, "TEA- LU is a groundbreaking achievement for motorcycle safety, for the first time in recent history individual states will be eligible for federal funding, in the form a grant, to advance or implement motorcycle training and awareness programs".

The Senate has yet to introduce similar legislation, but is expected to in the near future. Following passage of the Senate counterpart, key lawmakers will be named from both chambers to conference the bill where the differences between the measures will be compromised.

Just over two months remain before the sixth and current extension expires. Some lawmakers and lobbyists agree that should a final agreement not be reached by that date the chances of seeing a highway bill in this congress are very slim. However, House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Don Young (R-AK) has vowed to fight to the end in order to get the measure done. Young will preside over the conference committee once the Senate has passed their version of the legislation

The MRF will continue to fight for your freedoms and update you on the status of the surface transportation bill and how it will affect motorcyclists.

