**Transcript: “Dear Motorist”**

**Source:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Euu2QRIuEPk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Euu2QRIuEPk)

[music]

[On-screen text]

Over the last 10 years, 6,957 cyclists have been killed

Our goal is to save at least one

Cyclists have written the following letters

Voice 1: Dear motorist

Voice 2: Dear motorist

Voice 3: Dear motorist

Voice 4: I am a mother

Voice 5: I am a daughter

Voice 6: I am a cyclist

Narrator 1: Over the years, cycling has kept me healthy. It has given me a way to escape from the pressures and stresses life can bring.

Narrator 2: I am out there riding my bike to stay healthy, to enjoy the beautiful place where I live, and simply because I love it. I love the wind on my face, the sun at my back, the scenery flashing by, and the feeling of satisfaction I get from living an active lifestyle.

Narrator 3: Dear motorist, I am not a cyclist, but I’m a husband. I have a wife. She loves to ride. Someone almost hit her the other day. My heart stopped when I heard the news.

Narrator 2: I know that cyclists can be annoying. We may ride in your lane, [cars honking] or force you to slow down and wait before turning. Until I bought a bike, I, too, was easily irritated by cyclists impeding my commute.

Narrator 4: The thing that a lot of motorists don’t realize is that a lot of cyclists are going to put themselves in whatever position they feel is safest.

Narrator 2: When you are driving a car and road conditions become dangerous, you move around them to keep yourself safe. It is the same with cyclists.

Narrator 5: I’ve taken a right-hand turn in my car and nearly missed a cyclist I failed to see around the corner. I’ve been cycling on the shoulder of the road and almost hit by a distracted driver. I live on both sides of this discussion.

Narrator 6: I recently had a good friend of mine killed while riding his bike. It was tragic and unnecessary. He was too young to die.

Female voice: My friend lost his life doing what he loved. Doing what I love.

Narrator 6: He had a wife and four kids. I want to be there for my family. He no longer can be.

Narrator 6: It is easy to feel invincible, like you are the exception to the rule, like it would never happen to you or to somebody you know. In an instant, his wife and four young children’s lives were changed forever. And not just theirs—the life of that motorist will never be the same either.

[police sirens]

Narrator 7: I think that’s everybody’s worst fear, um, is actually having taken someone’s life—or even injuring somebody. I can’t imagine the guilt I would feel, um, not only for the person that I injured, but for everybody else in that person’s life.

Narrator 6: My friend does not have to live with that memory every day, but the driver who hit him will live with that guilt every single day for the rest of his life.

Narrator 4: I’ve had a really hard time getting back on my bike since the accident, because I’m afraid every car I hear coming from behind is gonna hit me, and I just don’t want to ride that way.

Narrator 2: I am at the mercy of the motorists I am sharing the road with. You are bigger than me, you are traveling faster than me. If we collide, my chance of injury is one hundred times greater than yours.

Narrator 6: Every single person’s life is worth a few seconds of your time.

Narrator 1: I understand where cyclists would be angry with the situation. I understand where motorists get frustrated with slower-moving objects on the road.

Narrator 9: I’ve seen my fellow cyclists do some really not-so-smart things on the road, and it hurts me to think, “This is where our image comes from.”

Narrator 2: Accidents can be avoided by both parties—cyclists need to be conscientious of drivers and obeying the law, and not just assume that drivers are going to look out for them.

Narrator 6: As a cyclist I pledge that I will be as visible as possible, to stay as much out of your way as possible.

Narrator 5: I’ve made a new commitment to myself. I will stop the distractions when I’m behind the wheel.

Male voice: Please slow down and drive cautiously.

Narrator 4: There isn’t anything that’s going to happen while you’re driving that’s more important than the actual act of driving.

Narrator 10: I don’t want to leave my kids without a mother because I didn’t respect you as a motorist, or you didn’t respect me as a cyclist. More importantly, I want you to respect my kids, even if they are still learning to respect you. So my plea is for us all to be safe, to be aware, to be courteous, and to share the road.

Cyclist 7: Sincerely, your friend.

Cyclist 9: Sincerely, your brother.

Cyclist 10: Sincerely, a mother.

Narrator 3: Sincerely, a cyclist’s husband.

Cyclist 5: Sincerely, a cyclist.