

Representative Holvey,

I want to voice my opinion in favor of SB 998 which will now move to the house for consideration. I myself am an avid cyclist, and relocated to Eugene, OR three years ago mostly due to the great cycling opportunities and progressive culture.

From my experience, strict police enforcement of complete stoppings by bicyclists has never once been about traffic safety. It has only ever been used as an excuse by vindictive cops to harass cyclists, or as an excuse to stop and harass minorities and impoverished people. I have literally listened to a police officer (in Milwaukee, WI) brag about stopping multiple people an evening for petty stop infractions and lack of proper bicycle lights as an excuse to search them. (I refuse to utilize his language in describing the types of people he boasted about pulling over.)

I've very easily spent an average of 6 hours/week atop a bicycle for the past 16 years (I'm 28). Resided in multiple cities across the USA, and the aforementioned enforcement practice has held true.

Passing this law would mean protections for those that choose alternative transportation, it would be a protection for minorities from racist law enforcement officers, and for the impoverished who often have no other choice but to travel by bicycle.

<http://s.oregonlive.com/4sYaW3K>

Thank you for taking my opinions into consideration.

Respectfully,

Zack Geyer
Resident of Eugene, OR