

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing in support of SB 998, the "Idaho Stop" bill. This bill legalizes a common practice among cyclists across the state: proceeding safely through a stop sign after slowing, yielding, and maintaining balance on the bicycle.

If you've ever ridden a bicycle, you'll notice that it's very difficult to maintain balance while stopped. For this reason, most riders ride slowly through stop signs, instead of trying to balance on two wheels while stopped, or, to be even less efficient, putting a foot down on the street. Since it requires so much energy, and is a relatively dangerous, precarious position, most of us avoid stopping entirely, putting down a foot, and remounting the bike again at every stop sign.

In case you're concerned about safety effects, please review this study of the laws effects in Idaho: <https://bikeportland.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/idaho-law-jasonmeggs-2010version-2.pdf>

Also, keep in mind that, as the law still requires yielding to traffic as normal, the cyclist retains responsibility for their riding: this is not a get-out-of-jail-free card for riding a bike unsafely. It merely legalizes normal behavior, and removes the possibility of random, unequal enforcement.

Please pass this common sense legislation.

Thanks you for your time,
Charley Reneau
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