

Subject: Yes on SB998

My name is Chris Evans and I live in La Grande, Oregon. I am contacting you to voice my support for SB 998, allowing cyclists to enter intersections controlled by specific traffic control devices, essentially allowing stop signs to be treated as yield signs where safe to do so.

I am both an automobile operator and a near-daily cyclist. While driving a car two years ago, a reckless uninsured driver crashed into me and totalled my car. Instead of replacing my car, I have been walking and biking to work ever since. Cycling has been a life changer for me, I have lost almost 50 lbs!

I always try to bike safely and follow traffic laws. I see big benefits of allowing cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs. The onus of safe operation remains on the cyclist, but the option to avoid dangerous low-speed transitions will be safer for all road users, especially when there is a car directly behind a bike.

When I ride my bike in the winter here (studded bike tires!) Four way stops are often icy and very dangerous. It would be safer at such low speed if I could treat some spots as a yield sign. Stopping and starting momentum again is tricky and I have fallen. I have also seen other car traffic come sliding toward me while I'm on my bike at a four way stop.

In short, there are many upsides and no real proven downsides to this bill. This is a clear and easy victory for all road users. Please work to progress this bill to adoption and vote "yes."

Thank you,

Chris Evans  
La Grande