

Hello House Rules Committee,

My name is Julie Hammond and I live in Portland's Piedmont Neighbourhood where I travel by foot, bus, bicycle, and car. I am writing to support SB998 which would allow cyclists to treat stop signs as yields.

When cycling through my neighbourhood I am contentious of street signage and the laws, and yet it seems like an enormous waste of personal resources -- my own energy! -- to come to a full and complete stop at empty intersections. When there is a car behind me, I often feel pressured to go quickly or, after coming to a stop, am subject to a car racing perilously close to my side; were I to yield and the car to stop, this would not be an issue. On my bike, as on foot, I am able to see left, right, and ahead of me from considerable distance away, and have no interest in putting my own life in front of a moving vehicle. I do have interest, however, in making my commute and bike travels as easy as possible, and SB998 does exactly this.

I dislike cyclists blowing through stop signs as much as anyone, and was concerned that this rules change might make some cyclists think this was a legal and viable option. My review of literature and how laws like this have impacted safety in states like Idaho and New Hampshire convinced me that not only is this not a concern, but that this small change could encourage more people to get on bikes more often. In this time of climate crisis, every small step we can take to encourage cycling is important.

I hope you will vote yes on SB998.

Sincerely,
Julie Hammond
Portland, Oregon