

Hi,

I am writing to express my support for bill SB 998. This bill allows persons on bicycles to treat stop signs and flashing red lights as yield signs, and is also known as the “Idaho Stop” law.

I commute by bicycle daily to my workplace in Tualatin. There are many, many intersections in my 5 mile ride, and intersections are where most car-bike conflicts occur.

This law would allow me to spend less time in intersections, where I am most vulnerable. I exercise extreme care at intersections, because I have the most to lose in a car-bike conflict. I also have the advantage of being able to hear traffic better, and I have better sight lines than a vehicle. I can also stop extremely quickly. Being able to keep a small portion of my momentum makes my commute much easier, and safer.

There are no data that show negative impacts of the Idaho law, which has been in effect for 27 years. There are similar laws in effect in Delaware and Arkansas. Oregon is becoming known for its bike tourism, and this law would further Oregon’s reputation as a bike friendly state. I have had multiple friends visit from out of state specifically to ride bicycles, and I spend much of my vacation time touring the state and spending money in restaurants and hotels around the state.

Thanks for your consideration,

**Steven Soto**

[\(He/Him/His\)](#)

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