

I am an avid bicycle rider who would request you vote yes and pass Senate Bill 998 (Idaho Stop law) out of committee and onto the House floor. This bill would treat stop signs as yield signs for bicycle riders.

This bill is a common sense law that should already be in place. It is incredibly dangerous and causes major traffic issues for a bicycle rider to stop with a foot on the ground at every stop sign. Unlike vehicles which must stop for safety reasons, it is actually significantly safer for a bicycle rider to maintain some momentum when approaching an intersection. It allows us to move through intersections with purpose, avoiding issues with on-coming traffic.

A vehicle must stop partly because the field of view is restricted. It is too easy for a person or car to be in the blind spots caused by the frame of the car around the windshield, or behind the rear view mirror. (I drive too!) That extra second or two at the stop sign, fully stopped, can make all the difference. For a bicycle rider, though, we have no blindspot. We have full 180 degree vision and thus less issues seeing on-coming traffic or pedestrians.

This bill does not absolve us riders of the need to ride carefully. At the end of the day, it is still a two ton vehicle against a person on a 20 pound bike. But it does allow us to help keep traffic flowing and make safer decisions to move through intersections, quickly and deliberately.

Thank you in advance for voting SB 998 out of committee and onto the floor, so it can be passed and signed this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elia Freedman
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