

My name is Jeff Beyer, I live in the Arbor Lodge neighborhood of Portland. I'm reaching out to convey my support for SB 998, conversationally known as the "Idaho Stop" bill.

While I own both a car and a bicycle, my bicycle is my main mode of transportation. Living in North Portland but working in Beaverton, my easiest / fastest commute would be to drive my car every day. However, I do my best to minimize my environmental impact and spend my time biking the full way when I can, or utilizing the MAX as needed. Therefore, I spend a lot of time on my bike, and find this specific bill to be of importance to me.

I find great benefit in allowing cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs when appropriate. Given the distance I cover each day, I've done a lot of optimizing my route to specifically avoid stop signs. This includes hopping on busier roads with more automobiles, or taking a longer distance for the benefit of constant movement. While any one individual stop sign may only slow me down a little bit, they certainly add up over a long commute. Couple that with the location of a stop sign (near an uphill for example), and it really can be frustrating to fulfill the requirements of a complete stop (foot down) when it isn't necessary - meaning I've already slowed down to recognize moving forward would be safe. (I'll admit I don't always do it, I feel bad, but I like to keep moving!).

Making the "Idaho Stop" an allowable behavior, in my opinion, could only help in encouraging others to cycle more, due to less of a hinderance by stop-signs littered throughout neighborhoods and the constant stop-and-go they require. Even if it didn't, it seems there hasn't been any evidence to suggest it's any less safe (according to a study done on the law in Idaho), so it seems a clear victory for all! At the end of the day, I and many other cyclists are still well aware of the risks we face on our roads. I would never use this as an opportunity to blindly fly through intersections, and fully support the idea that that type of riding is very much considered reckless.

This bill is the right move to allow cyclists to proceed with their riding in a way that is more beneficial to them, while at the same time is not any more harmful or dangerous. I urge you to move this bill onward!

Thanks,

Jeff Beyer