

Thank you for your hard work and representing the state of Oregon. As someone who rides 20 miles every day to work this bill means a lot to me. I started commuting by bike after 911 and was motivated by the resulting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Seeing our soldiers being deployed and redeployed over and over because of our need for oil inspired me to change my commute. When I ride in the rain and cold I think about the men and woman who are at some remote outpost protecting our energy infrastructure and the hardships that they endure for us.

However some drivers have a very negative view of me as a cyclist and don't want to see me on the road. One argument these driver's have is that bicyclists will roll through stop signs. They are right. I do roll through stop signs but only when it's safe. I always look both ways twice but the law is not on my side. Currently the law gives credence to drivers who are hostile towards bike riders, even though the cyclists are being safe and responsible. Pease support SB998 and give protection to riders who are being safe & sensible.

This video link does a nice job of illustrating why this is a needed and reasonable change. <https://vimeo.com/4140910>

Thanks,
Travis Ernst
Portland OR