

Hello,

My name is Kristin Petherbridge and I am a cyclist and motorist living in Portland OR. I'm writing to express my support for SB-998 which would allow cyclists treat stop signs as yields in specific traffic situations where it is safe to do so.

I am both a cyclist and a motorist (don't you discount me/throw me in the "cyclists only" pile, now!) and believe this bill will improve the road experience of both groups. Allowing bicycles to treat stops as a yield makes for a smoother ride for both the cyclists and any motorists waiting for them at a stop. It will lower the energy necessary to ride through many local neighborhoods, and I believe it will also encourage cyclists to use our lower traffic greenways and neighborhood streets since it will reduce the "stop time" needed on quiet neighborhood streets, which will in turn reduce the likelihood of cyclists taking to higher-traffic car-focused roads if they want to "make good time."

Lastly, safety: Jason Meggs' 2010 study "Bicycle Safety and Choice: Compounded Public Cobenefits of the Idaho Law Relaxing Stop Requirements for Cyclists" concluded that relaxing the stopping laws in Idaho caused no additional traffic safety risk. Having read the study and having seen the "Idaho stop" used in practice within Portland from both my car and my bike, I agree with him.

With clear benefits and no proven downsides, this bill is a no-brainer to me. I hope you will agree. Please support SB 998!

Thanks,

Kristin Petherbridge
kristinpetherbridge@gmail.com
Portland, OR 97202
Senate District 21
House District 42
Congressional District 3