

Hello,

I'm a daily commuting cyclist living in Northeast Portland and I wanted to express my support for Senate Bill 998 - the "Idaho Stop."

I think this should become law because it would promote bicycling in Oregon and help move our state away from automobile dependence. This bill would allow cyclists to use their judgement of when it is safe for them to slow down instead of coming to a complete stop at a stop sign. This would allow cyclists to carry their momentum thru the intersection.

Because bicycles move more slowly than cars, they have more time too look for hazards when approaching intersections. When there are no cars around it feels really unnecessary and counterintuitive to fully stop at a stop sign, as it requires more energy to get going again. This may seem like a minor inconvenience but it has the biggest impact on new cyclists who are evaluating their experience. Doing what we can to encourage them to cycle more, like not requiring them to make unnecessary stops, would help reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road, which have an outsized negative impact on carbon emissions, pollution, and land use (parking).

Research in Idaho has shown that after their bill was passed, there was no effect on crashes or bicycle accident rates.

I support this bill not only because it would make my commute easier, but more importantly because it would be good for Oregon.

Thank you,
John Dwyer