

Good day!

My name is Peter Seaman and I live in the city of Portland, in Multnomah County.

I urge you to support SB 998, which would allow cyclists to treat stop signs as "yield" signs. I ride my bike around the city of Portland every day, to get to work and to do errands like get groceries and drop off dry-cleaning. The problem with stop signs is that they were designed for cars, whose operators can't see very well and are hidden away from the outside world. But when I ride my bike, I can see everything around me and I can also hear everything around me. I have the ability to approach an intersection and know right away if any car or motorcycle or bike or pedestrian is in or also approaching the intersection, and take appropriate action - but ONLY if I'm allowed to keep my momentum going. If I have to apply my brakes and stop completely and put a foot down on the pavement, my momentum is completely lost and I'm now drawing the ire of cars and trucks who need to wait for me to go from zero to eight MPG. It's much safer for everybody if I can approach the intersection with some momentum and treat the stop sign as a yield sign. It's also more convenient for everyone else! - I don't need to stop and make everyone wait for me to get going again.

Thanks for considering this important bill!

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