Dear The House Rules Committee,

I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 998, the "Idaho Stop Bill." I have been a longtime cyclist in Portland and believe that this change would make cycling safer and more efficient for everyone. Research has shown that there is no long-term evidence that the original Idaho Stop Bill led to an increase in injury or fatality rates, however it was highly popular.

It is easy to think that cyclists who roll through stop signs are being reckless, when in fact, those of us who cycle are often doing our very best to stay safe in often dangerous road conditions where automobiles dominate. Rolling through stop signs is one way that we keep ourselves safe, by maintaining momentum and keeping safe distances from cars.

Currently cyclist can get citations (and often do in Portland) for rolling through stop signs which only serves to deter people from cycling. Changing this law would help people who are just doing what is the safest, most efficient strategy, to not have to constantly worry that they will be fined while riding their bikes. Every bike on the road helps reduce traffic injuries and death by reducing automobile traffic, so we should be encouraging this mode of transportation, not penalizing folks to who are making our streets safer for everyone.

Trust me, no one on a bike wants to get hit by someone driving a car. I am a very cautious cyclist, but have always found that rolling through stop signs (when clear) is the safest choice I can make. I highly encourage you pass this bill and support a safer and more efficient system for everyone!

Thank you,
Lauriel Amoroso
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"It is not half so important to know as to feel" ~Rachel Carson

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