

My name is Alan Barton and I live and work in Portland. I am writing in to voice my support for SB998, allowing cyclists to enter intersections controlled by specific traffic control devices like stop signs.

I am both an automobile operator and a daily cyclist. Cycling allows me to save money, stay healthy, reduce congestion, and get where I need to go efficiently with minimal environmental impact. I am a conscientious cyclist who sees the benefits of allowing cyclists to treat stop signs as yield sign. The onus of safe operation remains on the cyclist, but the option to avoid dangerous low-speed transitions will be safer for all road users, especially when there is a car directly behind a bike.

This proposed bill would also make cycling more attractive to more people by reducing the high-effort inertia-building that is required in low-traffic residential areas with many 4-way stops, like the neighborhoods in North Portland. More cyclists in the community means more savings, healthier citizens, and less automobile congestion meaning everyone gets where they are going more efficiently and more safely.

In short, there are many upsides and no real proven downsides to this bill. This is a clear and easy victory for all road users. Please work to progress this bill to adoption and vote “yes.”

Thank you,



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