

Dear Oregon legislators,

Thank you for your time to read this email. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 988, "Stop as Yield," which would allow bicyclists to yield at red lights and stop signs rather than fully stop. As a commuter and traveler biker, being in flow with the road is important to my safety. Red lights and stop signs are essential for the flow of motorized vehicle traffic, but bicyclists are in a unique place of vulnerability by being right next to cars with little protection. When we are able to be in tune with the flow of traffic and aware of our surroundings it helps us stay present, safe, and demonstrate that bike presence should be protected.

Second, biking is an essential part of my commuting and stop signs and red lights are often hindrances (when unnecessary) rather helpful. Already, most people I see riding yield at these stop posts instead of fully stopping. To be punitive to people who are trying to get to work and already taking a risk with their safety by riding next to motorized vehicles fails to recognize their ability to assess their own safety. Further, it is time consuming and wasteful to put city money and effort into enforcing such rules. For all these reasons, I urge a strong vote for Senate Bill 988. Thank you for your time and work.

Best,

Hannah Schandelmeier-Lynch