

Dear House Rules Committee members—

I'm writing to request that you approve Senate Bill 998 A, which would allow cyclists to treat stop signs as yields, to move to the floor for a full vote.

As you're certainly aware, Idaho has had a similar rule in place since 1982. You've surely also seen the 2010 study by Jason Meggs from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health which concludes there was no increase in injuries or collisions as a result of Idaho's stop sign rules.

Given the outcomes in Idaho, there's no good reason to oppose the change.

Some people will protest that it's unfair, a special privilege for a minority of road users. I'd say it's the other way around, that the current rules are unfair to cyclists. Stop signs are frequently used as traffic calming devices in residential neighborhoods, out of recognition of the danger automobiles represent.

Bicycles don't need to be subject to traffic calming measures. They're already traveling below every speed limit in the state. It's unfair to ask cyclists to give up their momentum—which is hard-earned—to address safety issues created by cars.

I am part of bicycle culture both civically and professionally, but I'm writing to you personally, without listing my affiliations, because this small thing means so much to me as an individual. Since cannabis was legalized a few years ago, this is the last absurd law I still break.

Please, help make me a law-abiding citizen.

Happy Trails,

Ron Georg

Corvallis, OR