

February 11, 2011

Members of the DC Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Support for Vulnerable User Laws

Dear Members of the DC Council:

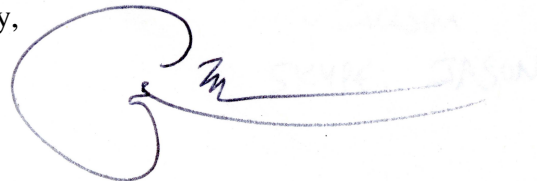
For nearly thirty years, bicyclists in the state of Idaho have enjoyed the right to choose to safely yield upon reaching a stop sign or traffic signal. Is this safe? Is it beneficial?

In my capacity as a traffic safety researcher at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, I traveled to Idaho in pursuit of a multi-part study to answer just those questions. After reviewing and analyzing decades of traffic safety data, conducting a survey of the general public, documenting behavior at intersections, and interviewing a wide array of officials and community representatives in Idaho, I found no evidence suggesting that this legislative decree has caused any harm whatsoever.

Quite to the contrary, a strong indication of wide-ranging public benefits was found. Cyclists in the Capitol city of Boise are much safer on average than cyclists in similar cities that differ primarily in the lack of such a law. Indeed, injuries for bicyclists declined 14.5% the year after the law was passed. As a lifetime bicyclist and a traffic safety researcher, I urge you to review my study in order to make informed decisions.

Please feel free to contact me for any reason: via phone at (510) 725-9991; or via email: jmeggs@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason N. Meggs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Attachment: Draft study as submitted to Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC