

## Tainted and Sainted

### Tainted (response)

by Bruce Wyncoop, June 29, 2019

As an avid bicyclist I want to answer last Saturday's tainting of the bicyclist who ran a stop sign and then spoke to the driver angrily, using profanity.

The letter writer added if a bicyclist "blows" a stop sign and is hit by a driver, the driver will be held responsible because "That's how our crazy laws are enforced."

I disagree with that statement.

A bicyclist on a roadway, by state law, is considered a vehicle with all the rights and responsibilities of a motor vehicle. If a bicyclist breaks a traffic law and is hit by a motor vehicle, the bicyclist will be held responsible, as it should be. Our laws are not "crazy" as the writer contends.

The writer goes on to say that bicyclists don't pay any gas taxes for the building or upkeep of roadways. I've heard this one before.

I, and all bicyclists I know, also own a motor vehicle and, thus, do indeed pay our share of gas taxes. In addition, I'd like to mention that my bicycle and I together weigh around 200 lbs. while a driver in a vehicle weighs around 6,000 lbs. Which of the two cause more damage to the roadway?

And if I ride my bike for 20 miles I use no gas and cause no pollution; can a driver make the same claim?

The writer goes on to say, "Bicyclists, you use OUR roads and streets that WE build YOU..." (emphasis added by me).

The roads were built for motor vehicles and bicycles and bicyclists paid their fair share. They are MY roads as much as they are YOUR roads.

The writer ends with bicyclists (implied) "don't be so insolently boorish!!", painting all bicyclists with a very wide brush. I and my friends have ridden thousands of miles over the years and have never been insolent or boorish, to a motorist or anyone else. We have, however, while riding legally and considerately, been treated boorishly by drivers on numerous occasions, yet we don't think ALL drivers are boorish.

The "Tainted" writer owes the vast majority of bicyclists an apology. I'll wait to see it next Saturday.