



March 15, 2019

To: Chair Nathanson  
Members of the House Revenue Committee

Re: Support of HB2978

My name is Ginny Wood, and I am Director of Operations for Albany and Eastern Railroad, a privately owned short line railroad based in Lebanon. The AERC serves the manufacturing, agricultural and wood products industries in Lebanon, Sweet Home, Albany, Crabtree, Lyons, Mill City and soon, Corvallis.

I am writing today in support of HB2978, the Short Line Railroad Tax Credit bill that is before your committee. Maintenance of our leased and owned right-of-way is critical to our ability to be the safe and efficient shipper that our clients have come to rely on. Over several years, in partnership with the State through Connect Oregon, we were able to bring over 40 miles of track back to safe and efficient operating condition that had suffered from many years of previous/deferred maintenance issues.

As evidenced by the white paper submitted by the Portland & Western Railroad, our ability to efficiently carry more freight by rail results in significant savings for the state in road maintenance costs by removing thousands of tractor trailer loads from Oregon's highways. Additionally, the efficiencies of rail result in significantly less diesel used per ton of freight moved, which also contributes to Oregon's climate objectives.

We look forward to many years of continued partnership opportunities with the State of Oregon, and urge your support of HB2978.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ginny Wood', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ginny Wood  
Operations Director, AERC