



**UNION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*Donna Beverage, Commissioner  
Paul Anderes, Commissioner  
R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner*

*Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer*

1106 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541)963-1001

FAX (541)963-1079

TTY 1-800-735-1232

March 15, 2019

Honorable Senator Bill Hansell,

As a board member of the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority, I am writing in support of House Bill 2978 to support the Oregon Short Line Tax Credit. This legislation would provide critical infrastructure investment and support to rural and small-town Oregon and its short line railroads. Short line railroads drive economic development in the communities they serve by keeping agriculture producers and manufacturers connected to the national freight network. This innovative legislation will help short lines drive investments based on market demand, community needs and, most importantly, will help keep Oregon's farmers, agri-businesses, manufacturers, retailers, producers and all customers competitive in the national and global markets. The legislation will also promote safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation for short line customers that support Oregon workers and their families.

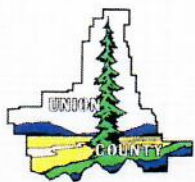
Locally, the Wallowa-Union Railroad provides excursion train service on a road less section of track between Elgin and Minam providing breathtaking views of the Grande Ronde and Wallowa Rivers from Spring through Fall of each year. This excursion train service provides a boost to the local economy through tourism dollars essential to our community. The tax credits would provide integral support to the continued operation of this train service by allowing for continued infrastructure improvements.

I support Oregon's short line railroads and urge you to pass House Bill 2978 for the Short Line Tax Credit this year. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important transportation and economic development opportunity for rural Oregon.

Sincerely,

Paul Anderes  
Union County Commissioner  
Wallowa-Union Railroad Authority Board Member





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Sincerely,

R. Matthew Scarfo  
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