



**PROTECTING YOUR
RIGHT TO ROAM**

May 13, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

I represent Oregon Walks, a nonprofit, membership-based pedestrian advocacy organization in Portland, Oregon. We urge you to support HB 2846, the Safe Community Highways Act.

There are countless so-called "orphan highways" sprinkled in every corner of Oregon. These roads often bisect residential and business districts in the heart of small villages and large cities--and every size municipality in between. The jurisdictional transfer process, as outlined in HB2846, will create a mechanism for municipalities to engage ODOT in jurisdictional transfer that is fair and equitable.

There are too many crashes that result in pedestrian deaths when people walk to and from school, work, and places of business on these unimproved highways--highways that were not designed for pedestrian safety! Local communities are best equipped to create safe streets for their most vulnerable road users. This bill creates a system that allows all municipalities to participate in a fair and equitable jurisdictional transfer process, not just cities large enough to be able to negotiate the terms of the transfer on their own. Neglected highways functioning as in-city streets are an Oregon-wide problem, and we need an Oregon-wide solution. HB2846 is a step in the right direction.

This is why we support HB 2846, and we encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jess Thompson".

Jess Thompson
Executive Director
Oregon Walks