



Senate Bill 59

May 16, 2019

Joint Transportation Committee

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am David Anzur of Goose Lake Railway in Lakeview.

I am here in support of SB 59 to fund ConnectOregon. I have previously provided testimony to this committee on behalf of the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, where I mentioned the importance of the ConnectOregon program especially for short line railroads. Rail has received \$173 million of the \$419 million awarded over the past six ConnectOregon programs. This program has saved and sustained numerous rail lines that were in danger of losing vital transportation links.

Specifically:

- Port of Coos Bay's rail line, for replacement of ties. Importantly, it also **served as mandated "matching" funds used to leverage subsequent Federal grant funding for bridges and tunnels.**
- P&W's Willamina branch line; Astoria Line along the Columbia River and the Seghers line to Forest Grove, for replacement of rail and ties.
- Albany & Eastern Railroad's line for replacement of bridges and installation of ties.

Furthermore, it has provided successful economic viability for small rural communities and small business.

ConnectOregon has also made the transportation system better, more efficient and safer. Specifically:

- Port of Morrow used the funds to enhance rail infrastructure and attracting new businesses. **Funding also acted as mandated "matching" funds that were used successfully to leverage subsequent Federal grant funding.**
- City of Prineville Railroad used funds to build a freight depot and leverage Federal grant funding.
- Rail yard tracks were improved and capacity added at the Port of Portland, P&W's Albany Yard and Tigard yard, CORP's Winchester Yard, and Union Pacific's yard in Portland.
- Union Pacific upgraded a major bridge crossing the Willamette River, and upgraded tracks in Portland that improved the flow for both passenger and freight trains.

Short Line railroads and other non-highway transportation modes need ConnectOregon to further enhance the transportation system within Oregon. **Goose Lake Railway in rural, economically-distressed, Lakeview Oregon, is in desperate need for track infrastructure improvements.**

Please support SB 59 at \$100 million funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


David Anzur
Goose Lake Railway LLC