



May19, 2019

**To:** Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown,  
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

**From:** Ginny Wood, Director of Operations  
Albany & Eastern Railroad

**Re:** Support of SB59

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown, and Members,

I am writing to express the Albany & Eastern Railroad's support for SB59, which would reauthorize the use of lottery bond proceeds for the Connect Oregon program.

The AERC has partnered with the state through Connect Oregon to repair and make ready much of our owned and leased right-of-way in the eleven years under our current ownership. The improvements and upgrades made through the program have helped reverse many years of deferred maintenance issues, present when we began operations. These investments in our right-of-way have improved the safety and efficiency of our operations, to the benefit of our customers, employees, and the communities we serve.

Lastly, in the interest of all all state funds being put to their best and highest use, we believe that the best investments for Connect Oregon funds would arise through a traditional open, competitive grant process.

If I can be of any help to you or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. If you find your self in Lebanon, please reach out and we'd be pleased to arrange a tour of our operations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ginny Wood", is located below the "Respectfully," text. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ginny Wood  
Director of Operations  
Albany & Eastern Railroad