



May 20, 2019

Joint Transportation Committee

Strong Support for SB 59

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Lana Butterfield. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE). ORULE is an association for all public and private interests that operate, utilize and support railroads in the State of Oregon. Our membership is quite diverse, including Class I railroads, short lines, passenger rail advocates, light rail, ports, shippers, engineering firms, rail manufacturers, etc.

ORULE is fully in support of SB 59 regarding *ConnectOregon*. Some of our members will be testifying today. We have supported all the previous versions of *ConnectOregon* as well. One of our purposes as an association is to encourage economic growth within the State of Oregon. We believe that the *ConnectOregon* program has proven its worth over the years in this regard.

The *ConnectOregon* website says, "This key strategy ensures Oregon's transportation system is strong, diverse, and efficient. *ConnectOregon* is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce and remove delays."

ConnectOregon helps to attract and sustain business and jobs in Oregon and connects Oregon to world markets. The program is unique nationally and is a valuable addition to the significant investments Oregonians have made recently in the highway network.

The Oregon Rail Users' League strongly encourages your committee to pass SB 59. We also are hoping that in the future the program will return to an open competitive process.

Thank you for your attention.

Lana Butterfield, Executive Director
Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE)
lanab@teleport.com
ORULE website: www.orule.org
503/819-5800 cell