

March 3rd, 2021

Chair Beyer and Chair McClain and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

RE: Testimony Opposed to SB 395; Request for Amendments

Please do not adopt SB 395 as is. Please amend SB 395 to (1) require that ODOT can only give grant money if the recipient proves it has all required land use permissions that are final, without appeals., (2) that the committee includes a **FARMER** and a **Farm Bureau representative**, and (3) **the public is notified in advance of ODOT giving any grant and given the opportunity to comment.**

We are farmers, owning some of the best farmland in Yamhill County and the world. We had to fight Yamhill County for nearly 3 years to enforce important Oregon Land Use Planning laws that protect farmland and protect the public process, laws that the county and ODOT ignored. ODOT acknowledged that the county "hid" LUBA appeals "for months" and yet ODOT kept giving the county money. It was clear that ODOT was on notice that there was a serious problem.

Our names are Cal and Christine Peterson. We have farmland here in Gaston, Or. We raise cattle, goats and pigs and hay.

After reading the Senate Bill 395, line 38 states 11 members for the committee, not one of the members are a FARMER or representative, someone who will be a voice and a different point of view from the other members. How is this balanced and fair? Also a member who is under the age of 21 years old? How does that make sense?

We need to protect the transportation dollars and use those wisely. These funds that are spent on trails need to ensure that government agencies do a better job of oversight where those dollars are spent so that we don't wind up with inconsistent and unworkable policy goals. There needs to be Farmland studies, which should be a necessary process for siting trails, and to keeping everyone safe.

There needs to be transparency, notice, and more voices, not fewer in the decision-making process when it comes to linear projects that involve multiple stakeholders who are NOT AG land users commercially, and landowners whose operation seeks to provide jobs, preserve our farmlands, and protect food security.

Sincerely,
Cal & Christine Peterson
Dogwood Meadows
Gaston, OR