

Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayfield and Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee. For the record my name is Jeff Manternach and I am here to ask for funding for the Lake County Railway. Lake County has now secured \$5.6 million of funding from the Federal Rail Administration to complete urgently needed repair and upgrading work on the on rails, ties, approaches and crossings of the 55-mile Lake County Railway. Currently, trains are limited to just 8mph. The Lake County Railway is a crucial commercial link for Lakeview's manufacturing businesses, which have for decades provided reliable, well-paying jobs for the Town of Lakeview and Lake County. Lake County Commissioners and Representative Reschke have built strong support for this project, so the State of Oregon has the opportunity to magnify its investment in Lake County by more than 3 to 1. Please, make this investment in rural Oregon and help support Oregon's manufacturing jobs.