

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation  
On HB 2411A**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 2411A.

Transportation is, essentially, a means to connect people with the resources they need to survive and thrive. These resources, such as education, healthcare, jobs, goods, community resources, and more, can increasingly be accessed through the internet. This makes the coordination of broadband and transportation infrastructure a natural fit, and Oregon Environmental Council supports this alignment.

Getting broadband to rural Oregon and other underserved areas is essential in order to provide communities with more opportunities and access. ODOT operations offer coordination opportunities for building out broadband infrastructure and this legislation will ensure that carriers are aware of those opportunities. Having coordination like this in place will also help position Oregon to take advantage of the federal government's commitment to providing all Americans with internet access.

However, it is not sufficient just to get broadband to an area or a town. Carriers must step up to provide service, and service must be supplied at reasonable rates. We appreciate the work that has gone into this policy and look forward to the legislature continuing to build up upon this, to improve the access to and affordability of broadband for Oregonians in all corners of the state.