
House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

February 13, 2023

RE: Opposition to HB 3186

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa, Members of the Committee:

Our transportation system is evolving and it is becoming increasingly important to make sure that people have options when choosing how to get around. We appreciate the need to work through insurance coverage issues related to new car sharing and motor vehicle services as we find creative ways to reduce reliance on cars and increase transportation affordability. Local governments are a key partner in ensuring that infrastructure keeps up with the evolving needs of these innovative programs and technology. This is done despite significant revenue limitations.

Because of these limitations, we have had to find other ways to fund the needs of our community members. One way we do this is through a motor vehicle rental tax. This tax funds a variety of county services such as behavioral health, housing, public health and other safety net programs. It also provides local governments with resources for debt service on the spaces we all love to gather. In the future, this revenue could serve as a key funding mechanism for infrastructure maintenance and replacement of structures such as Multnomah County's Willamette River Bridges.

Multnomah County opposes HB 3186 and the repeal of ORS 742.585. We also oppose changing the definition of "vehicle sharing program" to "car sharing program". If passed, this new law would prevent Multnomah County from collecting the Motor Vehicle Rental Tax. The ordinance relating to this tax would be inoperable and we would lose the revenue we currently rely on for the above mentioned services. This revenue is key to the functions of the county in non-crisis times, but especially now when we are facing various economic and service-related crises such as a housing shortage and an increase in reliance on behavioral health services, and decreasing transportation funding options. It is imperative that this piece is removed before HB 3186 continues on in the legislative process.

Thank you,

Taylor Steenblock

State and Regional Affairs
Multnomah County Government Relations