

Submitter: Mary Liberty-Traugher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: SB14

Having passenger rail service return to Eastern Oregon would provide a healthy economic boost to our area and provide a much-needed transportation option for the thousands of people who come to Pendleton each year for the Pendleton Round-Up, Pendleton Whisky Music Fest, Jackalope Jamboree, Wildhorse Pow Wow, and more. While we have a very small, limited public air service, getting here via the highway system is the only form of transportation for large numbers of people - and that means large numbers of private vehicles burning fuel, creating exhaust, and eroding our roads.

Speaking as a CTUIR member, our tribes would benefit economically from an increase in tourism to our resort and to our off-property enterprises, Hamley & Co and the Golf Course at Birch Creek.

I anticipate a tremendous positive impact to Eastern Oregon tourism with the return of passenger rail but also see a beneficial environmental impact.