

Submitter: Margaret Durner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: SB14

When I was working I used the passenger rail from Baker City to Portland often, before it was discontinued, to attend conferences and training in downtown Portland. I also used it to travel to west side of state to visit my boyfriend and other friends. Family used it from Seattle to Baker City to visit me as well. Using Amtrak especially in the winter when the mountain passes could be treacherous to drive was always a nice option to have when you had to travel to west side of Oregon or Washington. Now I think I would use it travel to Boise for medical needs, cultural events and social occasions, especially in the winter.

Mass transit is something America has woefully neglected all along. When compared to other industrialized countries we really are in the dark ages when it comes to service needs of the general public. Given climate change issues and needs of the general citizenry, I think we deserve service comparable to what corporate America enjoys to deliver its commercial goods to its customers. So how about it? The elderly would benefit from alternate modes of travel besides owning and operating a personal vehicle. I address the line that would impact me the most beneficially, but perhaps the whole mass transit issue should be addressed nation wide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.