



February 21, 2023

Senator Chris Gorsek  
Representative Susan McLain  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: HB 2692, Directing Oregon Department of Transportation To Develop Plans To Operate and Fund Rail Transportation**

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek, McLain and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Microsoft, I am writing to express support for HB 2692, an act directing the Oregon Department of Transportation to work with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to develop plans to operate and fund rail transportation.

For the past several years, a broad group of stakeholders has been working to unleash the full potential of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor as an economic and research powerhouse where people want to live and work. Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia share many of the same goals and objectives for our communities, our industries, our universities, and our environment. A key component of making the most of the future for our Cascadia region is to improve our transportation infrastructure, specifically shared rail service linking Oregon to Washington and British Columbia.

Bringing together two states and a province to agree on a broad vision and plan is ambitious, but the challenges and opportunities we are confronting require a regional effort. HB 2692 is an important step in improving this cross-border collaboration.

We now have a great opportunity to leverage new federal dollars dedicated to rail service to begin to realize our region's full potential. We urge your support for HB 2692, and we urge your support to advance the broader objective of building high speed ground transportation to connect cities in Oregon to Washington and British Columbia.

We would be happy to discuss this with you further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wall".

Jim Wall  
Sr. Director, State Government Affairs  
Microsoft Corporation

cc: Representative Nancy Nathanson  
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation