



All Aboard Washington
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Testimony on HB 2691 February 21, 2023

For the record I am Luis Moscoso, Government Affairs Director for All Aboard Washington (AAWA) and the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA) here today in support of HB 2691. I am a former Legislator in Washington state where I served as Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee and founded the Legislative Rail Caucus in 2013.

First of all I wish to thank the sponsors of this bill and the Oregon Rail Caucus for their vision and determination to address intercity and interstate passenger rail transportation in this critical year. This work has for too long languished while Legislatures and the Federal Government looked for funding to continue the restoration and expansion of passenger rail service. But now the time and opportunity are before us.

Since retiring in 2016 I have continued to advocate for *high performance rail* in the Northwest. It has been encouraging to see the increased level of interest and activity to expand passenger rail service in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and beyond. Officials from all levels, transportation planning organizations, local, state and federal officials, as well as communities across these states have registered their interest and need to make *high performance rail* a viable transportation option.

I have heard directly from many sources how envious other communities are of the Amtrak Cascades operating in our two states. The Cascades Corridor was established decades ago as the backbone for developing passenger rail from Vancouver, B.C. to Eugene, OR. HB 2691 seeks to maintain and use the full length of that corridor for the benefit of all Oregonians and interstate travelers wishing to go beyond Portland. The best way to serve more of Oregon is to ensure that the last 100 miles from Portland to Eugene are part of the plan to establish *high performance rail* along the whole corridor. I implore you to support HB 2691 as it will expedite increased service to Eugene.

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