

Submitter: Judith Fisher  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: SB16

I am writing to ask you to support SB16 requiring the Department of Transportation to study funding options to support transportation.

When I first moved to Eastern Oregon in 1983 the Pioneer Line provided the connection I needed to travel by train to visit my family near Seattle and back to Baker City. My family and friends enjoyed travel by train to visit me as well. All that ended when passenger service through eastern Oregon and beyond was eliminated in 1997.

The possibility of re-opening the old Pioneer corridor (the least well-served area in the country) is exciting and important. Besides the obvious need to reduce our carbon emissions and congestion of our highways, there is an aging population in Eastern Oregon needing access to medical facilities in larger areas on the west side of the state, and Boise too. Winter weather conditions all too frequently close the I84 interstate, while freight trains continue through. There are the economic benefits of bringing tourists to this part of the state, as well as to the west side from Eastern Oregon and beyond. As in the past, passenger rail service would provide a safe and efficient means to visit our families and friends and bring them to us. It would once again create for all ages access to the rest of the country, its arts, festivals, universities, medical facilities and more.

Please support SB16. This would be a huge step toward reinstating a much needed service to a large part of the State.

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