

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2662

February 21, 2023

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

For the record, I am Courtney Neron, State Representative for House District 26, here today in support of HB 2662. I want to co-sponsors, Senator Woods and Representative Pham, as well as the leadership of the City of Wilsonville for their partnership in bringing this rail bill forward.

The cities that I represent in the outer SW Portland Metro Region are among the fastest growing communities in the state. As our region grows and changes, we know we need to be proactive and thoughtful about identifying and investing in public transportation solutions. With this bill we have the opportunity to study an additional option for commuters that can help to mitigate increased congestion and carbon emissions. I also want to highlight the growing local economy with major companies like the Amazon warehouse in Woodburn. New developments bring new job opportunities but they also increase pressure on our roads, which is why it is so important for us to research potential transportation alternatives.

HB 2662 requires the Oregon Department of Transportation to study the extension of the Westside Express Service (WES) commuter train from Wilsonville to Salem with stops in Donald, Woodburn, and Keizer in collaboration with TriMET and the Portland Western Railroad.

With Oregonians returning to in-person work, employers struggling to find enough workers, increasing costs of living, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed, we need to consider multimodal transportation solutions that connect Oregonians with the economic opportunities offered by our local employers. This study will focus on one option available to achieve our goals.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 2662. I urge your support and swift passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

House District 26

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain