

Re: A Commuter's Perspective on HB 2662

Dear Joint Transportation Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 2662, and to share my perspective as someone who regularly does the Salem-Portland commute.

Your Committee undoubtedly has access to many statistics about the environmental benefits of public transportation, but I will emphasize here some of the other benefits of public transportation—in this case, extended rail service-- for individual commuters like myself.

Although I currently use the 1X bus to get from Salem to Portland, I still have to drive on I-5 for a significant part of my commute. Having extended rail service would allow me to greatly reduce this time in my car on I-5, and that would have the following benefits:

- 1) **Reduce my chances of being in a car accident on I-5.** No matter how careful one is, accidents regularly happen on I-5, especially due to the extreme number of cars and trucks on it every day.
- 2) **Reduce my chances of having my windshield cracked** by pebbles flying off of trucks and cars (which has happened to me multiple times, especially since I drive a compact car, lower to the ground.
- 3) **Reduce my stress**, due to driving conditions on I-5, including the dangers just mentioned.
- 4) **Increase my productivity**, by giving me more time to work on my laptop.

For all these reasons, as well as the macro ones that affect the entire state of Oregon and beyond, I support HB 2662.

Thank you very much for your consideration,
Peter Wogan