

Submitter: Steve Piercy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: SB1572

I am writing in strong support of SB 1572, which, if passed would create a task force to study how Westside Express Service (WES) rail could be expanded to reach Salem with local stops along its route.

We need more ways to travel long distances than airplanes, buses, and cars. Trains are a vastly cleaner, safer, equitable, and affordable transportation option, and serve a critical purpose for a connected and integrated transportation network. I travel to Europe often, and only travel by foot, bike, tram, bus, or train, once I've landed in the country. The Netherlands, France, Italy, and others have redirected funding for transportation away from cars only to public transportation and creating safe places to walk and ride a bike. I love being able to read a book, chat with other passengers, get exercise, and enjoy life, instead of being isolated and imprisoned inside a car.

Most importantly, SB 1572 serves only to collect, analyze, and report on data for expanding rail service. We don't yet know whether it is viable, how much it would cost, and other details. We should endeavor to understand something before we reject it.

Thank you for your consideration for the passage of SB 1572.