

Marion County Democrats Legislative Committee

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SB 1572 – Study by ODOT of WES Commuter Rail to Salem-Support

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the committee

The Marion County Democratic Central Committee Legislative Committee at a regular meeting endorsed the idea of a study of the WES commuter rail. The purpose of the study would be to ascertain the feasibility of extending the commuter rail to Salem to reduce the reliance on commuter travel between Salem and Portland. It would also provide additional opportunities for the aging population of the state to access services and events in the greater Portland area.

Greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles is one consideration. Sheer numbers of trips between Salem and Portland on I-5 is another consideration.

We have noted ODOT's neutral position and suggestion of a compromise in the way the study could be operated.

Please forward this bill to the Ways and Means Committee for their consideration.

Marcia Kelley

Legislative Committee Chair