

Submitter: Paul Diller  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: SB1572

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I strongly urge you to support SB 1572. I have commuted from the Portland area to Salem for much of the last 18 years and the need for convenient, reliable rail transportation in that corridor has always been clear. For the last 10 years I have commuted from Wilsonville to Salem. While the combined SMART/Cherriots 1X service does an admirable job of providing bus service on I-5, it can only be so reliable and efficient given the constraints of operating on the only major highway on the west coast connecting Canada and Mexico. Major backups and even closures -- usually caused by semi's overturning -- happen all too often. Investing in rail from Wilsonville to Salem/Keizer would help the economy of the entire extended Portland-Salem metro region. It would give people and families more realistic options in terms of commuting, pursuing job opportunities, and deciding in which community to live. It could help alleviate the affordable housing crisis. It would attract highly desired workers to the area knowing that they could commute in comfort. It could help in student, faculty, and staff recruitment and retention for colleges throughout the corridor, including Willamette in Salem.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly urge you to pass SB 1572 out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Paul A. Diller  
Wilsonville, Ore.