

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of SB 1572**

February 13, 2024

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

SB 1572 establishes the Westside Express Advisory Committee—a collaborative effort involving multiple organizations—to assist the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in conducting a study on extending the Westside Express Service (WES) commuter train. The goal of the expansion of the current rush-hour only line would be to extend service from Wilsonville to Salem with stops in Donald, Woodburn, and Keizer in collaboration with TriMET and the Portland Western Railroad. It is once again a bipartisan concept supported by leadership of the impacted region. I want to thank the committee for passing our earlier 2023 version of this bill ([HB2662](#)) unanimously out of committee. I hope that you will do this again so that we can finish unfinished business this short session and want to thank the partnership of Representative Mannix and Senator Woods, as well as all of the many chief sponsors supporting the bill this session.

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 must be proactive, solutions-oriented approaches are vital to identifying and investing in innovative public transportation solutions. This bill is an opportunity to study an alternative to mitigate increased congestion and carbon emissions. Additionally, it underscores the importance of addressing local economy and workforce commuting needs, particularly with the growth of employers along the I-5 corridor.

With employers struggling to hire workforce, rising costs of living, and the need for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, it's imperative to consider multimodal transportation solutions that connect Oregonians with economic opportunities. This study will focus on one important opportunity to achieve these goals and position us for informed and strategic federal and state investments in 2025.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of SB 1572. I urge swift passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Neron".

Representative Courtney Neron  
House District 26 | Wilsonville, King City, Sherwood, Tigard