

Submitter: Denise Cairns
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3231

I find it very discouraging that all the planning and proposals for revised or new rail transportation in Oregon do not include the Pioneer from Portland to Boise. We here in NE Oregon, particularly Baker City, have lost our bus transportation option. We have no public transport option. LaGrande and Pendelton apparently still have bus transport available but no train as well. This country is sooo far behind Europe, China, and Japan in terms of train transport it is ridiculous. Americans are a different breed I grant you. We like our independence and ability to travel by car wherever we wish, however, there are many times when being able to take the train to Boise would be of great advantage. In this area, including Baker City we have a growing number of retired folks who have moved into the area for small-town life. As we age we have many more medical appts and many of those appts are in Boise. It is the medical hub of the region. Tourists are close to our #1 industry except for cattle. This is another whole sector that would use this train from Boise to Portland and Seattle, Portland Boise, and Salt Lake if we had it available. So, in closing, I would really like to encourage you to think long-term and include infrastructure planning to include the segment from Portland to Boise and think long term.