

Submitter: Judith Fisher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3231

I am a resident of Northeastern Oregon and I am writing you today to express my interest in the restoration of the old Amtrak Pioneer line, now identified as the Seattle-Denver route by the FRA as a candidate for creation in their recent long-distance rail study. This route would provide resilient, sustainable and equitable transit options for a large portion of eastern Oregon's residents. This would result in economic growth and social cohesion between eastern and western Oregon and replace the recently cancelled Greyhound bus route between Boise and Portland, the only public transit option in and out of NE Oregon for the last almost 30 years.

For me personally, the reinstatement of the Pioneer would provide safe, convenient transport to visit my family and friends in NW Washington and Portland, and for them to visit me, as it did before 1997. The 10 hour drive is daunting. Now I am part of the Eastern Oregon aging population who often requires medical services in Boise, La Grande and Portland throughout the year. I-84 is often closed for weather and various other reasons, while trains pass through.

Thank you for your efforts to reinvest in this multi-modal transit system that is resilient, accessible, sustainable and works for all Oregonians.