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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3233

The Cascadia region is a prime candidate for improved passenger rail service along the Cascades corridor. Working with the two other jurisdictions along the route to plan for this makes a lot of sense. Traveling from Portland to Seattle or Vancouver, BC is often an awkward choice. Flying is expensive and quite a hassle for such a short flight, driving or taking a bus can be tiring and vulnerable to traffic delays. Rail service would be the perfect "Goldilocks" option, except for poor reliability and a limited service schedule. Fixing this would provide many in the region with newfound access to multiple major metro areas in the Pacific Northwest. I believe the directives of this bill can help facilitate that.

I have seen firsthand in Japan how a robust passenger rail system can better connect communities and open up freedom for many individuals in various circumstances to move around independently and access the benefits of the wider region. I dream of a future where improved rail service, and perhaps even eventually high speed rail, can connect our region. I believe achieving this could start a positive feedback loop, building the case for more passenger rail infrastructure around the state.

I hope you will join me in this vision of a more connected future for Cascadia and support this bill. Thank you.