

Submitter: JOSEPH GREENE
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3233

I am writing in support of HB 3233. In order to serve the transportation needs of the citizens of Oregon while also protecting our environment, the state needs to develop a strong rail network. Highway expansions are expensive, inefficient, and contribute to CO2 emissions and other pollution.

The state should be aggressively pursuing rail expansion in order to be a climate leader on transportation, and we should be doing it in concert with the two other governments that we already share a rail corridor with. In the past years, Oregonians have already shown their interest in train based transit. Amtrak as a whole had a record breaking year in 2024, but specifically in Amtrak Cascades in Oregon there was a surge in ridership in the last year.

This was following the increase in daily round trips between Portland and Seattle from 4 to 6. Investing in improvements to train capacity promotes ridership

Public transportation projects bring in 4X their cost in benefits, reducing accidents, commute times, and increasing access to jobs across the service area. A massive investment in public transit can bring our state massive benefits.