Testimony in Favor of SB 458

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 458, a critical piece of legislation that will improve the safety and reliability of Highway 30—a vital transportation corridor for the North Coast.

Highway 30 is essential to the daily lives of our community members. Whether it's students trying to reach school on time, patients needing timely access to healthcare, or emergency services responding to urgent calls, any disruption on this highway creates a ripple effect that impacts everyone. Additionally, the economic vitality of our region depends on the safe and efficient movement of community members driving to work, tourists who are visiting, and the transportation of goods crucial to local businesses.

Particularly concerning is the stretch near milepost 59, known as the S-curve on Clatskanie Hill, which poses significant risks for drivers. Fog, icy conditions, and inadequate lighting combine to create hazardous driving conditions. These dangers make it clear that action is needed to enhance the safety of this roadway.

SB 458 would provide the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with the necessary tools and information to address these issues and implement safety improvements on Highway 30. By supporting this bill, you are helping to protect lives, support local businesses, and ensure the well-being of our entire community.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 458 and help make Highway 30 safer for all who travel it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,
Darcey Edwards
State Representative
House District 31 – Columbia County, Multnomah County, Washington County