

Submitter: Carver Akiteru Oblander
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

Dear Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation. My name is Carver Akiteru Oblander and I live in Portland, Oregon. I support House Bill 3453. This bill represents a great opportunity to improve and expand the currently underserved WES line. By establishing a standalone WES Authority, we can free it (and the connecting bus service to Salem) from the jurisdictional no man's land it currently resides in.

This helps open the door for more improvements to existing service, such as increasing frequency (the current infrequent service likely deters many riders), and also for expanding service, such as to Salem and Eugene. Having a reliable, convenient alternative to driving can help reduce congestion for those driving, and give an alternative choice to those who can't drive, don't have access to a car, or would simply prefer a different mode of transportation. These eventual expansions could even improve the accessibility of the state's capitol to Oregonians who work there, or simply wish to see their legislature in action. In addition to reducing congestion, this added capacity can help mitigate the need for further (expensive) freeway expansions and reduce carbon emissions.

I strongly urge your YES vote for House Bill 3453.

Thank you for your time,

Carver Akiteru Oblander