

Submitter: Joel Bravo
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 Joel Bravo and I live in Portland, Oregon. I support House Bill 3453. With traffic congestion only increasing in Oregon and the Portland metro, the need for a multimodal transportation system that can relieve congestion only grows. While the WES as it currently exists helps in combating congestion on I-5, it is currently limited to only rush hour service during the weekday. House Bill 3453 would give the state the tools to significantly expand the usefulness of WES by providing more frequent service to more communities. Much of the rail infrastructure and right of ways that an expanded WES can use is underutilized, making frequent passenger rail service that doesn't compete with freight rail an attractive option. In addition, expanding service at high enough frequencies would make the WES an attractive alternative to I-5, increasing ridership and revenues.

Recent enhancements to commuter rail services in other parts of the country, such as Caltrain in California, have shown the dramatic impact on ridership that enhanced frequency and service can have. Oregon can also enjoy similar benefits should we choose to put in the work. I urge the committee to vote Yes on House Bill 3453. Thank you.