

Dear Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Starr, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Ryder Booth. I'm a 19-year-old student at Willamette's Pacific Northwest College of Art and commute by bike in Portland. I'm here with Sunrise PDX in support of HB 3453.

I am one of the approximately 30 percent of Oregonians who can't or don't drive. Owning a car is just too expensive for me. So I rely on public transit, biking, and walking to get where I need to go.

I support HB 3453 because I wish that getting to Salem was much easier, regular, and cheaper. I take classes in Portland, but I would have loved the opportunity to take classes in Salem as well. However, because I don't own a car I can't access classes at the main Willamette campus without paying roughly 17 dollars a day in bus tickets or taking 4 transfers.

HB 3453 would alleviate this issue and provide a more regular and economical way for me to get to Salem than Cascades buses currently offer. Expanding the WES service to Salem would provide students, like me, the connections to Salem that we need.

Making it possible for people to switch away from, and not need to drive helps us all. And increasing WES service to Salem and Eugene is a step towards building a healthier, safer, more affordable, and equitable transportation system.

This bill grows Oregon's commitment to building healthy and livable communities that feel connected and comfortable. People all over the state need improved transit services so that they can live without needing a car.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3453. As a student and young person who wants to see a better tomorrow, I urge you to vote in support of this bill.