

Submitter: Rebekah Engle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

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

I have lived most of my life in Salem, Oregon and I support HB 3453, which will positively affect anyone traveling between the Portland metro area and Salem. This bill will make regional travel easier and more accessible and will reduce congestion on I-5.

HB 3453 would help commuter congestion in the I-5 corridor by moving people more efficiently than in single-occupancy vehicles. Not only would it reduce congestion, but it makes for another option for those who cannot or do not always want to drive between cities. Commuters, those seeking options to reach PDX for flights, seniors, people with disabilities that make driving difficult or impossible, and many other groups of people would benefit greatly from a regional transportation option like WES.

We need to thoughtfully plan station development and connections along the corridor for the maximum benefit to the communities WES will serve. This bill will help us build healthy, livable communities that feel connected and comfortable. Increasing WES service to Salem and Eugene will open the door for economic investments in housing, retail, education, recreation, and job opportunities around those new stations.

There is a significant need for improved transportation options between communities in Oregon. This bill is a chance to begin this improvement and invest in a more connected Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3453. I urge you to vote in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Engle