

Submitter: Peter Laciano  
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,

I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 3453, to establish a Westside Express Service Authority and plan for extension of the WES system to Salem and eventually Eugene.

This is a critical economic development initiative that would make more jobs available to more people. I personally was offered a higher paying job in Albany last year. However, I would have to commute there twice a week, which I found untenable via driving on I-5. If a frequent commuter train service was available, this would have been a much more attractive prospect.

In addition to economic development, this initiative has huge benefits for I-5 congestion (at a lower cost than billion-dollar highway projects), climate emissions reductions, equity and accessibility for those who cannot drive, and safety, and sprawl reduction/preservation of our world-class farms and forests.

Once again, I urge you to support House Bill 3453.

Thank you.