Submitter:	Maleek	McKenzie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

Unlocking Labor Markets & Opportunities: Inter-city public transportation tears down the barriers of distance that limit labor markets. Suddenly, someone living in a smaller city can easily commute to a job in a major hub without the financial burden and stress of owning and operating a car. This widens the talent pool for businesses, allowing them to access the best skills regardless of location. Conversely, it opens up opportunities for individuals who might otherwise be geographically limited in their career prospects. This increased mobility fuels innovation and productivity across the board.

Boosting Tourism & Hospitality Industries: Think about tourism. Inter-city public transportation is the lifeblood of travel between cities. Tourists, both domestic and international, rely heavily on affordable and accessible options to explore different regions. Trains and buses allow them to travel comfortably, enjoy the scenery, and arrive refreshed, ready to spend money in hotels, restaurants, attractions, and local businesses. A strong inter-city network transforms regions into accessible tourist destinations, injecting vital revenue into local economies and supporting countless jobs.

Facilitating Business & Trade: Efficiently moving people also means efficiently facilitating business. It allows professionals to attend conferences, workshops, and industry events in different cities without the time and cost burdens of driving. This reduces the friction of commerce and makes it easier for businesses to expand their reach and operate across multiple locations, fostering economic growth on a regional and national scale.

Stimulating Local Economies & Development: Investment in inter-city public transportation is an investment in local economies. Train stations and bus terminals become hubs of activity, attracting businesses, retail outlets, and restaurants to their vicinity. They can revitalize underutilized areas and spark development around transit corridors. Furthermore, by making smaller cities and towns more accessible, inter-city transportation can decentralize economic activity, reducing pressure on overcrowded major cities and fostering more balanced regional growth.

Reducing Costs for Businesses and Individuals: For individuals, using public transportation is demonstrably cheaper than owning and operating a private car, especially for inter-city travel. This saved money can be spent elsewhere in the economy, boosting consumer spending. For businesses, a strong public transit network can reduce commuting costs for employees, potentially leading to higher worker satisfaction and retention. It can also reduce logistical costs associated with business travel and meetings.

Beyond the Numbers – The Human Impact:

While the economic benefits are compelling, the positive effects of inter-city public

transportation extend far beyond just numbers. It's about connecting people, not just places. It's about reducing isolation, expanding horizons, and creating a more fair society. It's about offering freedom and opportunity to those who may not have access to private vehicles, ensuring everyone can participate fully in the economic and social life of our nation.

In conclusion, inter-city public transportation is not just about getting from point A to point B. It's a powerful catalyst for economic growth, social cohesion, and a more sustainable future. It's an investment that pays dividends across all sectors of society. Let us champion and invest in these vital systems, and together, we can build a future where our cities are seamlessly connected and our economies are thriving. Thank you.