

Submitter: Matt Krabacher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

I strongly support HB 3453 and ask that the Joint Committee on Transportation adopt it as well. I support it for the statewide benefits this bill can have on our economy, our standard of living, and our state (not to mention global) environment. Oregon lacks critical public transportation options outside of the Portland-Metro region. The common stat is that one third of Oregonians do not drive (think children, elderly, disabled) and are thus denied transportation and mobility options that they are still taxed to pay for (think highways and road maintenance).

Passenger rail, and public transit more generally, is also vastly more efficient at moving people around per ton of carbon emitted into our atmosphere or per meter of wilderness habitat exchanged for developed land or per dollar spent. The current environmental and climate crisis (not to mention any upcoming economic ones) requires us to get serious about efficiency and effectiveness with preserving our environment while maintaining individuals' access to transportation.

HB 3453 starts the process of tackling these issues directly, by connecting our west side cities through a sustainable, efficient transportation option. With its adoption and the implementation of WESA we can start to build a statewide transit system that works for all Oregonians. We can start to make Oregon an interconnected state through improving passenger rail and intercity transit service that give mobility access to all, not just those that can afford to own and operate personal vehicles. We can prevent the need for highway expansion that consumes wild spaces and adds to are already irreconcilable road maintenance burdens.

I would love to see my state take the initiative towards a more sustainable future, so our communities of today can reap the benefits and the communities of tomorrow can appreciate the foresight. I strongly encourage the committee to see the positive impacts HB 3453 can have on our state and I urge you all to vote in support of this bill. Thank you.