Submitter: Austin Payne

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,

My name is Austin Payne, a student at Willamette University who is in support of HB 3453 which will have a positive impact on anyone traveling between Portland, Salem, and Eugene. This bill not only increases transportation options but it will decrease congestion and emissions due to intercity travel in the Willamette Valley. Increased options would also make it more affordable and accessible to travel for everyone.

HB 3453 would increase access to opportunities for seniors, young people, and people with disabilities which allows them to travel and contribute to our communities and economies.
We need to thoughtfully plan station development and routes along the corridor for communities to benefit as much as possible. This bill is a opportunity to grow our commitment to transit-oriented development, too, helping us build healthy, livable communities that feel connected and comfortable. Increasing WES service to Salem and Eugene will open the door for vital investments in new housing, retail, education, recreation, and job opportunities around those new stations.

Often I must travel to airports taking shuttles or trains which can get very expensive. It can also be a hassle to have to plan out trips and stops ahead of time. If transportation was more accessible more people as a whole would move to the area and those already within the area can do more to stimulate the economy and create growth within communities. This bill is a step toward a more connected, accessible, and affordable Oregon, where more people can move freely across large portions of our state without needing a car or contributing to harmful carbon emissions.

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