

Submitter: skyler williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453
TO: Joint Committee On Transportation
RE: Support of HB 3453
DATE: March 11, 2025.

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

I am Skyler Williams, a college student at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon studying Environmental Science. I am writing to strongly support the passing of House Bill 3453.

HB 3453 would have a strong positive impact on Oregon residents between Eugene, Salem, Portland and the surrounding areas. Not only would it open the opportunity for people without cars make trips between these cities, but it would help to reduce traffic on I-5, meanwhile lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced from individuals' vehicles.

Personally, I rarely take trips from my home in Salem to Portland or Eugene. I often think about it, as both of those cities are much more active and fun for young college aged people like me. I do have a car myself, but the cost of gas and parking in those cities makes it hard to do the intercity traveling that I would want to do. If only we had a more efficient form of public transportation that would allow me to make these trips happen, that would be great. This rail system would simplify my travel across the state, as well as many other Oregon residents.

As an Environmental Science student, I am aware and deeply concerned about climate change and the factors that lead to the problem. A major one of which is the greenhouse gas effect. Anything we can do to limit our emissions is a win to me. Passing this bill would be a step in the right direction towards mitigating our carbon footprint and environmental impact. We must think about our future, and the future of generations of Oregonians to come, not to mention the future of our environment and planet as a whole.

Lastly, everyone traveling on I-5 between these cities knows how bad the traffic gets. Nobody likes being late for something because they are stuck behind endless sets of brake lights. An efficient intercity rail system would help to reduce the amount of cars congesting our roads. Any amount of drivers that switch to public transit will benefit those that must drive their cars. It would provide another option for people that don't

want to be driving the freeways in traffic all day. The list of benefits goes on, so let's make this happen.

I want to express my gratitude for anyone that takes the time to read this. I appreciate the opportunity to try to help my community and the environment.

Thank you,
Skyler Williams.