

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 Anna Kemper, I'm a resident of SE Portland and I'm writing to express my strong support of HB 3453. As a lifelong resident of Portland, I've seen our city continue to grow and adapt to an increasing population and new challenges exacerbated by the climate crisis. As a young person, I am constantly reminded of the challenges my generations and generations to come will face if we continue to be reactive instead of proactive on climate change.

Expanding the Westside Express Service (WES) to Salem and, eventually, Eugene, will increase access to vital opportunities for Oregonians who cannot or choose not to drive. A more connected rail network will allow more people to travel for work, school, healthcare, and recreation without adding congestion to I-5.

Transportation is the largest contributor to Oregon's carbon emissions. If we are serious about addressing the climate crisis and ensuring a livable future for generations to come, we must provide reliable, convenient alternatives to car travel.

Nobody likes sitting in traffic, and the I-5 corridor is notorious for disastrous car accidents that could be easily avoided by opportunities like the ones presented in HB 3452. Expanding WES would help reduce emissions while also making our communities more livable and connected and provide equitable opportunities for folks to get up and down I-5. Additionally, this bill presents an opportunity to plan for transit-oriented development near new WES stations—creating housing and economic opportunities that align with our state's land use and climate goals.

Transportation justice is climate justice! I urge you to support HB 3452.

Thank you,
Anna Kemper