

Submitter: Paul Diller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB715

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek & McLain,

This region desperately needs transportation alternatives to the traffic-clogged artery of I-5. As a native of the Northeastern USA, I have seen how effective a service like Amtrak's Acela is at transporting persons through metro areas efficiently and comfortably at a high speed and spurring economic development. Our current passenger rail system, while better than much of the country, needs vast improvement. There are still delays for freight all too often. I spent 4 months commuting from Wilsonville to Eugene by rail and bus and discovered the benefits and shortcomings of the system. You can read more about my experience here: <https://dilleradollar.substack.com/p/commuting-from-wilsonville-to-eugene?r=7no1h>.

High-speed rail from Vancouver, BC, to Eugene would make the Pacific Northwest a leader in transportation and economic development. This is all the more important at a time when the state's population is stagnant. We are no longer attracting newcomers, which we need to grow the economy.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of SB 715.

Sincerely,
Paul Diller