



# Crook County

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April 2, 2025

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 9

Dear Members of the Joint Committee On Transportation,

As the Crook County Board of Commissioners, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 9, which addresses a crucial issue for rural communities across Oregon, including our own. This bill, by prioritizing drive test access for residents of rural areas, demonstrates a profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by our residents.

In rural Oregon, the ability to drive is not merely a convenience; it is a fundamental aspect of daily life. The vast distances between essential services and the lack of public transportation options mean that driving is often the only feasible way for our residents to access employment, healthcare, education, and even basic necessities. Senate Bill 9 acknowledges these challenges and provides a sensible solution by ensuring that our residents can obtain their driver's licenses without unnecessary challenges.

The focus of Senate Bill 9 on improving drive test accessibility in rural areas like ours will significantly benefit our community by reducing the travel time and costs associated with obtaining a driver's license. This is particularly important in Crook County, where the nearest DMV office may be hours away for some of our residents. By enabling them to schedule drive tests at locations within a reasonable distance from their homes, we can enhance their ability to sustain their livelihoods and contribute to the local economy.

Moreover, this bill supports the viability of local DMV offices, ensuring that they continue to serve as essential resources within our communities. The presence of accessible, efficient service points helps maintain public safety, ensuring that all drivers on our roads have been properly tested and are truly qualified to be behind the wheel.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing efforts to serve the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

X   
Susan Hermreck  
County Commissioner

X   
Brian Barney  
County Commissioner

X   
Seth Crawford  
County Commissioner