

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Starr and Boshart-Davis, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, and I proudly represent House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 9, which offers a commonsense solution to a persistent challenge facing rural Oregonians—access to DMV services, specifically behind-the-wheel driving tests.

SB 9 directs DMV field offices in 20 designated rural counties to prioritize drive test appointments for individuals who live either within the county or within 50 miles of that field office. For those of us who represent rural districts, this legislation is both practical and necessary.

In Eastern Oregon, and across much of rural Oregon, accessing basic services like a driving test can mean driving hundreds of miles roundtrip—often multiple times—due to backlogs, staffing shortages, or limited office hours. This not only places an undue burden on students, seniors, and working families but also creates real barriers to employment, education, and independence for people without a license.

In House District 58, we have four DMV offices that cover nearly 8,000 square miles of my district. SB 9 doesn't ask for special treatment—it simply asks that rural residents be given priority access to the limited services available in their area.

This bill reflects the core principle of equity in access to government services, recognizing that what works in the Willamette Valley or along the I-5 Corridor doesn't always work for the farthest corners of the state. I and urge your full support of SB 9.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Bobby Levy, House District 58