

Submitter: Breck Lebegue MD MPH  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1202

Greetings Sen Gorsek and Pham; thank you for the opportunity to comment on OR SB 1202. I'm Dr Breck Lebegue, Co-Chair of Climate and Health Task Force, WA Physicians for Social Responsibility, a trusted voice for health policy in WA. We advocate for better public transport for better public health, climate & economy. 'Do more of what you did, get more of what you got'. True of health habits and transport policy. Build more roads, get more traffic, more car & truck wrecks with disability injury, more particles in our air and lungs—and more need for medical care, higher insurance cost, including Medicaid. Transport decisions have health consequences. We need a transport paradigm shift: more trains, not more lanes, especially for the 30% of us—seniors, youth, disabled—who can't or don't drive. Amtrak Cascades is an essential transport mode between OR, WA and BC, but has languished: on-time performance is only 48% despite ARRA 88% requirement. WA HB 1837, intended to improve Cascades, moved from House to STC to Rules and likely Senate passage. WA rail advocates also support a separate WA Rail office. Cascades began its dive after that expertise was eliminated. We need it again! In sum: WA and OR Rail offices can work together to expand & improve Cascades. To your health! Thank you.