

Submitter: Jake Dutt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

As a public transit worker, every day I see how important frequent and reliable transit improves the lives of all walks of life, especially vulnerable populations such as elderly, low income and disabled people, both urban, suburban and rural. Due to inflationary costs and the lack of funding from all sources, without meaningful investment in transit operations in this package, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians would suffer a loss of the essential service transit provides. People would either lose access to day to day needs or be forced into car ownership which not only increases a person's living costs which would in turn make a person spend less on other goods and services but also put more cars on our streets, increasing traffic, wear and tear on infrastructure, emissions and crashes. I plead you to not only increase the original STIF investments to retain the service we already have but to allow agencies to increase service to help connect more people to more destinations and more frequently. The return on this investment to Oregon's economy and environment will be much higher than the money put in.