

Submitter: Robert Spurlock

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Spurlock, and I live in Portland with my two young boys who are 6th generation Oregonians. I'm testifying today to urge you to support the amendment HB 2025 to increase investment in Oregon Community Paths via a luxury vehicle tax. After having been hit by cars while commuting to our jobs via bicycle, off-street trails are the only places where my wife and I feel safe riding bikes with our kids. Not only do they offer safe places to commute to work, but trails are the only type of transportation infrastructure that knit communities together rather than divide them. When our family uses trails, we wave to our neighbors and strike up conversations with Oregonians we've never met before. This is a stark contrast to the road rage we witness daily on our streets and highways. In times like these, we need as many spaces for positive community interactions as we can get. But most of our favorite trails aren't fully built yet. In fact, they all still have significant gaps where we're forced to merge with car traffic until the trail picks back up again. This amendment will give cities and counties the money they need to complete these trails, which will in turn welcome more people to share in the many benefits of these facilities. Without this amendment, cities and counties are left with few, if any, funding sources for bike trails. Please help my family -- and others like ours -- get around Oregon safely.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.