

Submitter: Judith Fisher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Dear Co-chairs McLain and Gorsek, Vice chairs Boshart-Davis and Starr and members of the committee:

My name is Judith Fisher. I live in Halfway in Eastern Oregon. I am testifying today because I support a 2025 transportation package that works for ALL Oregonians and reflects our shared values of safety, affordability, equity and climate resilience. I urge you to fully fund passenger rail and public transportation in Oregon.

Relatively small investments now can have huge payouts in getting all Oregonians where they need to go while improving our economy, environment and public health. Reinstatement of passenger rail between Portland and Boise, Idaho, through Eastern Oregon must be considered. As part of the aging population in this area, I am impacted significantly by the shrinking medical facilities in Baker County, and the dwindling public transportation, (even buses have been cut), to medical services in LaGrande, Boise and Portland. Adding to the need for rail transport, changing weather patterns cause I-84 to be closed frequently. As before 1997, passenger rail could again provide safe passage to be with family and friends as well as access to cultural programs. In the same way, it would enable tourism in Eastern Oregon to provide a much needed economic boost.

I urge you to pass a transportation package this session that moves Oregon forward.

Sincerely,

Judith Fisher