

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Unfortunately, I have to drive for work because it would be impossible to bike or take public transit across SE Portland and Milwaukie in order to reach my patients' homes in a timely fashion. It could be a possibility if there was a much more saturated network of light rail, street car, and dedicated bike facilities. But my personal experience only touches on the numerous reasons to invest more in public transportation options. Simply put, it's the right thing to do. It's right for individual freedom of travel, it's right for a greater sense of community, it's right for growth of the local economy, and it's right for the health of the environment. If we as Oregonians truly wish to make Oregon a better place to live in, we'd do well to invest heavily in public transit. If you don't believe me, please read *Happy City* by Charles Montgomery. When folks are forced to drive as the only viable means of transportation, they are sicker, poorer, angrier, and more isolated for it. Rather than building infrastructure to facilitate the profits of far away oil and car companies, let's invest in improving the lives of the people who call Oregon home. Imagine being able to bike across town efficiently on a protected and connected bike network, or between cities on an electric Willamette valley railway, with regulate service between Portland and Eugene, greatly reducing the car miles on I-5 as well as the cost of transportation, health, and personal budgets. Investing in sustainable transportation, thereby making it easier to go without a car, is investing in a more equitable, climate friendly Oregon and a healthier and more prosperous future for all Oregonians. Thank you.