

Submitter: Matt Krabacher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Hello My name is Matt Krabacher

I live in Baker City Oregon and act as the Eastern Oregon Vice President for The Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA). I am here today to testify in favor of expanded public transit and passenger rail options across Oregon.

I am glad to see that HB2025 contains dedicated funding that will sustainably go towards rail projects and may ultimately go towards pursuing passenger rail projects with Oregon's neighbors, such as Washington and Idaho. I look forward to that funding being expanded in the future.

I believe it is extremely important that HB2025 set a STIF increase to 0.5%, as recommended by the OTA, and not the 0.3% that it currently has. This STIF funding is the only reason that there is any bus system at all that runs twice a day in Baker County. If this funding were removed it would be detrimental to the many residents in my county which use this as their primary mode of transit. But if the STIF funding were set to the full 0.5%, it would allow these service to be expanded to better serve the residents of NE Oregon. I hope that can be changed before this bill is adopted.

I also hope to see legislation that allocates funding for a study on the impacts of establishing a separate Department of Rail and Transit outside of ODOT. Such a department may very well be the way we are able to develop an intercity rail transit network.

Thank you for your time and commitment towards building an safe, responsible and sustainable transit system for Oregon.