



SPONSORS ORGANIZED TO ASSIST REFUGEES

— A Program of EMOregon

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation Co-Chairs, Senator Gorsek and Representative McLain, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to support public transit in this legislative session of the Oregon State Legislature.

Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) resettles refugees from around the globe and assists them in their adjustment to a new life in Oregon. In recent years, SOAR has resettled approximately 250 refugees from around the world including Afghanistan, Burma, Central African Republic, Congo, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, former Soviet Union, Guatemala, Venezuela and Syria.

Many of our clients have low incomes and need public transit to meet their regular needs. Without public transit options, our clients would have difficulty accessing food, education, employment, health care, and other basic services. Further, without affordable public transit, a large portion of our clients' budgets would need to be spent on private transportation, leaving less for other essential needs.

As you consider the important transportation bills before your committee, we ask that you find ways to continue funding public transit in our community and across the state.

Very respectfully,

**Yelena Grigoryeva
Program Manager
Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees**