

June 12, 2025

Rep. Susan McLain, Cochair
Sen. Chris Gorsek, Cochair
Joint Committee on Transportation ReInvestment

RE: Support HB 2025

For the record, my name is Morgan Niles. As a parent who is raising my child in one of the best parts of Oregon, I am excited to advocate for HB2025 today to highlight my unique perspective as a worker with experience in tourism and public infrastructure, and as a resident of Tillamook County.

I have served the public of Tillamook County for three years--one year with Parks, and two years with the Road Department. It is also the third year that I have been a proud member of AFSCME Local 2734, the Tillamook County Employees Union, of which I proudly serve as the President.

I want to champion the positive impact that this revenue increase would have on our County and, by extension, many workers, including Union workers and our families. In my department, I am often the first person the public interacts with, and I also provide accounting support to the County Road Department. I pay the bills for all of the capital projects, tools, equipment, asphalt and other materials necessary to maintain over 350 miles of roadway, thousands of culverts, and hundreds of bridges. I may not be out fixing potholes and clearing landslides, but I am deeply proud to support the small crew of 16 hardworking Road Maintenance Equipment Operators, Mechanics, and Engineering Techs. in our bargaining unit who do the hazardous and essential work of keeping the roads safe and maintained for all who reside in and visit our County.

Our team takes care of our community, which is crucial because we are geographically remote and rural. We live in a beautiful, but volatile area subject to severe weather. Our crew works around the clock in storms, landslides, and floods year after year.

We are at an interesting crossroads of issues in our County, because a significant portion of the homes in Tillamook County are second homes or Short Term Rentals owned by those who do not live in our County. Therefore, they do not pay into our road system, as their vehicles are also registered out of County. Our roads are crucial to the success of the tourism industry, and the fee increases in HB2025 are appropriate to help offset this factor and guarantee security in our jobs. Tillamook County Public Works operates on a special revenue fund and does not receive local property tax revenue.

The 50/30/20 transportation revenue funding formula is essential for cities and counties, and for all of Oregon's communities.

Please invest in Union jobs, public infrastructure, and small and rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Morgan Niles

Oregon AFSCME Tillamook County Local 2734