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February 9, 2026

Senate Committee on Transportation

Oregon State Legislature | 900 Court St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 1543 Guardrails for Good Governance: Support

Chair Gorsek, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Guardrails for Good Governance (SB 1543).

For 40 years, Central Oregon LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon's livable future—one where our region grows well and with intention by creating well-planned and well-built cities with Complete Communities, preserving farmland, and protecting wild, open spaces.

Oregon's transportation debt has ballooned by 400%, far outstripping revenue growth. By moving forward with projects before securing sustainable funding, the state has fallen behind on road safety, bridge maintenance, and investments in healthier, climate-forward transportation options.

Central Oregon LandWatch joins Move Oregon Forward in their support for the passage of both Measure What We Drive and Guardrails for Good Governance. These bills combine to create clear alignment between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Oregon Legislature, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC). Most importantly, these approaches help Oregon use its limited transportation funds wisely — reducing future debt while investing in safer, more affordable, climate-forward, and accountable transportation systems

Guardrails for Good Governance creates additional oversight mechanisms to promote more accountable management of ODOT's finances, debt, and project planning.

Central Oregon LandWatch joins Move Oregon Forward in their support for Measure What We Drive (SB 1542) and Guardrails for Good Governance (SB 1543). These bills combine to create clear alignment between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Oregon Legislature, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC). Most importantly, they help Oregon get more value from limited transportation funds — focusing on maintaining what we have, improving safety, and reducing emissions without passing debt on to the next generation.



We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future



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Oregon communities need safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable transportation options. SB 1542 and SB 1543 both reflect these values, and support all Oregonians, now and into the future.

We look forward to continuing to work with this Committee, our legislators, Governor Kotek, and myriad people, communities, and stakeholders to help deliver a more safe, equitable and sustainable transportation future for all. Thank you for your service and for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kristin Reidelberger
Cities & Towns Program Manager



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