

Submitter: Eugene Griffith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1543
Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support both SB 1542 ("Measure What You Drive") and SB 1543 ("Guardrails for Good Governance"). These companion bills introduce accountability and fiscal responsibility to Oregon's transportation system, ensuring projects prioritize safety, maintenance, climate goals, and sustainable funding—values that align with my interests in environmental sustainability and efficient governance.

Support for SB 1542

SB 1542 requires ODOT to implement a transparent scoring system for transportation projects based on safety, climate impact, maintenance needs, and cost-effectiveness, plus an annual "report card" on statewide progress. This data-driven approach ensures taxpayer dollars fix crumbling roads and reduce emissions before funding flashy new builds, boosting public trust and outcomes.

Support for SB 1543

SB 1543 establishes a transportation debt management policy with oversight for ODOT and the Oregon Transportation Commission, balancing current projects against future obligations. By curbing unchecked borrowing, it prevents saddling Oregonians with ballooning interest costs, freeing resources for ongoing maintenance and innovation like EV infrastructure.

Together, these bills promote smarter spending and long-term stewardship. As a sustainability advocate, I urge swift passage to safeguard our roads, budget, and environment for generations.

Thank you for your leadership.
Eugene Griffith