

Submitter: Chelsea Taylor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1542

Dear Chair Gorsek and Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

My name is Chelsea Taylor, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm testifying today because Oregonians need a transportation system that maximizes its investments in safety, road and bridge maintenance, and climate impacts, and does not put Oregon's future at risk by taking on unnecessary debt.

That is why I am asking you to pass both Guardrails for Good Governance, SB 1543, and Measure What We Drive, SB 1542

Guardrails for Good Governance is important to me because ODOT's loans have increased by 400% since 2007 and are outpacing the money coming in, leaving less for bridge and road maintenance, seismic retrofits, and safety investments.

Measure What We Drive is important to me because it mandates investment in existing roads and bridges when they are not meeting maintenance standards.

With limited transportation dollars, we need to make every investment count without leveraging our future. Oregonians desperately need projects to prioritize maintaining current roads and bridges, investing in safety, and advancing a climate-forward transportation sector.

In addition, these policies are based on proven policies from other states and are budget-neutral. These bills will improve alignment and accountability in meeting ODOT's transportation goals. Oregonians need Guardrails for Good Governance and Measure What We Drive to pass.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Taylor
Portland, OR