

Submitter: Seth Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

I am opposed to this measure as amended by -3 (redirecting programs funds toward highway maintenance).

I am strongly opposed to these redirections:

-\$17 million in cuts to the Safe Routes to School program which has many unfunded intersection improvements in my neighborhood needed for child safety

-\$42 million in cuts to Connect Oregon, which funds Amtrak Cascades (a rail service I have relied on for commuting periodically to Seattle)

-\$35 million in cuts to miscellaneous safety projects, like bridge preservation and seismic resilience, which are going to be riskier left incomplete than highway maintenance

-\$8 million in cuts to the Community Paths program

These programs and projects are more valuable to Oregonians getting around, including my 2nd-grade daughter and her classmates than highway maintenance.

I would support major highway project funding be redirected to meet the current highway operations and maintenance needs instead.