

Submitter: NATHAN BOFTO

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Hello,

I am writing to strongly, **STRONGLY** oppose the latest amendment to this bill, that aims to redirect funding from rail to highways...again.

Rail funding is so, so scarce in the state of Oregon and this kind of amendment comes at the worst possible time. We are needing to **EXPAND** rail funding in the state of Oregon, not diminish it. We have so many opportunities to expand passenger rail with federal grants and matches. Having this amendment would easily disqualify us from federal help, making improvements for passenger rail between Eugene and Portland almost non-existent.

Without expansion and improvements, we are left with very stagnant service that will not keep up with the surging demands that our corridor has had in recent years. Passenger rail is the future and the most eco-friendly and green option to invest in. I highly, **HIGHLY** oppose this proposed amendment, and I strongly urge you all to reconsider this and keep rail funding as is, and expand, for the future.

Thank you for your time.