

Submitter: Hank Manilla

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

This is the first time I have ever submitted testimony for a bill. I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and opposition to the amendment to the transportation bill that would remove funding for safe routes to school and Connect Oregon.

Amtrak Cascades (funded through Connect Oregon) was a lifeline for me going through school at University of Oregon. Without it, I would not have been able to visit Portland as often for networking opportunities and career development and my career would not be the same. We absolutely need to prioritize the operations and maintenance of our rail infrastructure because doing so enables economic development and opportunity in our state.

Moreover, Safe Routes to School and other active transportation programs provide vital services that help reduce costs for schools, reduce the maintenance burden on our transportation system, and provide positive experiences for kids.

Removing funding for these programs is penny smart but pound foolish. Do not vote for this insane amendment.