

Submitter: Aire Uusitalo

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

Hello My Name is Aire and i am STRONGLY Opposed to SB 1601

This bill would slash funding for Safe Routes to School and Amtrak Cascades just to pour even more money into highways. That makes absolutely no sense.

We already have highways everywhere. We have lanes, expansions, interchanges, endless pavement — and yet we still deal with congestion, pollution, and communities divided by giant roads. Meanwhile, our rail system is underfunded, slow, and infrequent. You can't even get to Eugene as many times a day as people actually need, and the line isn't true high-speed rail. That's a failure of priorities.

Safe Routes to School keeps kids safe walking and biking. It reduces traffic. It builds independence. Cutting that to widen highways is backwards policy.

Amtrak Cascades connects cities, reduces car dependency, lowers emissions, and provides mobility for people who can't or don't want to drive. Instead of cutting it, we should be investing in faster service, more daily departures, better reliability, and real high-speed rail. Imagine being able to move between major cities quickly, comfortably, and without sitting in freeway traffic. That's not unrealistic — other places have done it. We can too.

We do not need more highway expansion. We need transportation options. We need safe streets for kids. We need trains that run often enough to actually be useful. We need infrastructure that serves people, not just cars.

It's time to stop defaulting to highway spending and start seriously investing in a modern rail system. That's not radical — it's practical, forward-thinking, and long overdue.

Also with the failure to pass HB 2025 bus service is already being cut 1601 will further cut our transit services

Thank You for the Opportunity to Testify