

Submitter: Brian Ettling

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB1601  
Topic:

Dear Co-chairs Nosse, Girard, and members of the committee,  
My name is Brian Ettling and I live in outer NE Portland. For 25 years, I was as seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park, where I saw with my own eyes the impacts of climate change with the annual average snowpack diminishing and the smoke from the summer wildfire season getting worse. This winter, the Oregon Cascade Mountains are seeing the lowest average snowpack on record. Climate change is here and it is requiring us to take urgent action now.

Yes, I realize that Oregon has a terrible budget problem right now, but please do not balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Oregonians, especially 25% who cannot afford or are unable to drive a car. Late yesterday evening, I received an alert from a friend from the Climate Reality Portland Chapter, that your committee is voting today during this meeting to make the these cuts:

- \$17 million in cuts to the Safe Routes to School program, which builds out sidewalks and bike lanes near schools,
- \$42 million in cuts to Connect Oregon, which funds Amtrak Cascades (between Eugene through Portland through Seattle) among other transportation services,
- \$35 million in cuts to miscellaneous safety projects, like bridge preservation and seismic resilience
- \$8 million in cuts to the Community Paths program, which builds our multi-use paths

If that is true, I please urge you to NOT make these cuts, especially the investments in passenger train service, which is vital for Oregonians who cannot drive or cannot afford to drive a car. There's got to be a better way to balance Oregon's budget than to make these cuts.

Thank you so much for taking my views into consideration.