

Submitter: Paxton Rothwell

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

I strongly oppose the -3 amendment to this bill.

Oregon needs to preserve its rail funding and local dollars for federal match. Slashing rail funding would devastate alternative transit options for Oregonians and visitors to our State.

I ask that you instead strip funding for the Rose Quarter and IBR projects. These projects are extremely bloated, reek of corruption, and will do more harm than good for Portlanders and Oregonians. We cannot afford these highway projects. The thought that you seek to strip rail funding to fund highway projects is sickening.

I do not envy your position. But if I were in your position I would do everything in my power to keep the funding alive for rail, safe routes to school, and basic maintenance before forking over more and more money to ODOT's highway expansion dreams.

What is the Oregon you want to leave behind when you are long gone? Is it one full of bloated highways dividing neighborhoods or one where passenger rail and off street paths connect our communities? I know I would choose connection over division. Let's see what you choose.