

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB1601
Topic:

Co-chairs Girod, Ross and members of the committee

****Note:** this testimony is a rough copy of my spoken testimony to the committee, and expands on and clarifies my previous written testimony on this bill.

For the record, my name is Helena Birecki. I live in Portland, used to live in Tillamook County, and also take the frequently sold out Amtrak Cascades to visit my mother and to continuing education courses.

I respect your intensive and broad-based work.

On 1601-3, I have to ask: Do you want to make Oregon better, or worse? Because the cuts in this bill to the Multimodal Active Transportation Fund, the Transportation Operating Funds that fund community charging, passenger rail, paths, and para-transit, and the safe routes to school funds- those cuts make Oregon worse: They'd increase pollution, kill children, and they're a fiscally irresponsible transportation funding choice.

I want you to rein in overspending on large projects and close corporate tax loopholes to balance the budget. Instead, you're stripping money from already underfunded yet very valuable and much loved public projects. That's not right.

If lottery funds are on the table to expand funding to county fairs, why not consider directing some of the over a Billion dollars of lottery revenue towards road repair instead of cutting community paths and transit that families might use to get to their county fair?

A Capital Chronicle article reports that Sen. Lieber said that the difference between this bill and what the Republicans proposed last year is "permanence," How, Democrats, do you expect to revert these cuts in the future if you cave now, with a supermajority. It's apparent from their actions that Republican legislators actively want to inflict a death by a thousand cuts to all of our transportation infrastructure. Democrats: The Republicans are not compromising with you. Stop compromising with them.

You claim to be here for your constituents. So Don't let this bill pass as is. Fix it now.