



March 3, 2026

Oregon State Legislature

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

RE: Opposition to SB 1601 -3: No Cuts to Safety

Chair Girod, Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition to the -3 amendment of SB 1601** on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch (LandWatch).

As a member of the Move Oregon Forward Coalition, **LandWatch opposes the proposed cuts to Oregon Community Paths, Transportation Operating Fund programs, and Safe Routes to School.** These programs were built with broad community support because they save lives, support the health of our kids and community members, reduce pollution, lower household costs, and provide lifelines for rural non-drivers.

The cuts to Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths are more than 60% of these program's budgets. Cutting the limited funding dedicated to successful programs that deliver on child and community safety is not the answer.

We support redirecting funds to the operations and maintenance of the current transportation system, but not at the expense of the safety and mobility of our most vulnerable community members, schoolchildren, and others who cannot drive.

There are other options and we recommend major highway project funding be redirected to meet the current highway operations and maintenance needs instead. Please protect existing funding levels for Oregon Community Paths, Transportation Operating Fund programs, and Safe Routes to School.

Sincerely,

Corie Harlan

Cities & Towns Program Director

