



March 4, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

1000 Friends of Oregon is dedicated to protecting Oregon's farms, forests, and watersheds—and walkable, rollable neighborhoods in our cities and towns. We are writing in opposition to the -3 amendment to SB 1601, specifically regarding the transportation funding sections.

We oppose cutting funding from multimodal active transportation programs, electrification efforts, passenger rail, and any other programs that support transportation options for the 30% of Oregonians who can't or don't drive, and keep transportation costs more affordable for all Oregonians.

Taking over half the budgets from Safe Routes to School and Oregon Community Paths is not how the state should be addressing its long-term operations and maintenance funding crisis, which has reached a point of emergency. These active transportation programs were created in 2017 after years of neglecting the needs of non-drivers and seriously addressing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. Oregonians walking and rolling are once again being asked to sacrifice their needs to fill a small piece of the state's massive transportation funding gap. The impact of moving these dollars to operations and maintenance is minimal compared to the impact of devastating those programs.

We have worked in partnership with Oregonians and community organizations across the state. We have helped turn out thousands of pieces of testimony on transportation over the last several years. We have supported ways to fund transportation that do not put the costs on the backs of Oregon's working families. Closed door conversations are not moving Oregon closer to a solution on transportation funding. Transportation funding conversations must be transparent and collaborative moving forward, to be successful.

We hope you keep all of this in mind as we head towards 2027 budget conversations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cassie Wilson

Cassie Wilson
Legislative Manager