

Submitter: Gwen Jaspers

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1601

To members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means & the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I understand that moneys usually allocated to transit, rail and bicycle and pedestrian projects are being considered as sources of revenue to close the large gap in the state budget. I realize you are in a tight spot and need to do something. But with climate change getting worse each year, it is imperative that Oregon stay on track to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Taking money from programs such as Safe Routes to School and Community Paths is counter productive to that goal. These and similar programs provide safe ways for kids and others – who can't or don't want to drive vehicles – get to school, work and other places. Because these programs make biking and walking safer and result in commuters contributing less carbon emissions than automobiles do, we must keep them funded and increase their budgets when we can. We all have known for decades that fossil fueled combustion engines are one of the largest contributors to our atmosphere's greenhouse gas accumulation that is warming our planet and affecting drastic changes to our climate.

We must continue to fund programs that support those who don't drive carbon emitting vehicles and encourage more walking and use of bicycles, mass transit and all the ways people get around producing much less carbon. The livability of our planet for our children and grandchildren require us to take what feel like drastic steps as we reprioritize our values, but that may pale in comparison to what future generations will have to endure if we don't make these changes.

It is incumbent on this body to make it possible for Oregon to meet its carbon reduction goals.

Your committee must reject SB 1601 – 3 with its current set of amendments.

Thank you for your time and work on this important issue.