



Date: February 2, 2012
To: House Transportation and Economic Development Committee
Re: **Support for HB 4020 and 4028**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Good morning. My name is Jennifer Ryan, PE, of Hatch Mott MacDonald, a local planning and engineering firm. I am a Transportation Project Manager for Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM), specializing in Rail Transit and a former TriMet employee. HMM is an award-winning transportation engineering firm with more than a century of construction management and design experience. We are working to maintain Oregon's competitive edge by designing and managing the construction of improvements to the freeway, rail, transit and multi-modal networks in the state. A graduate of Oregon State University, I have worked as a civil engineering field for 23 years and am on the board of the Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE).

I support increased funding for ConnectOregon IV through either HB 4020 and 4028 for the following reasons:

Funds Highly Skilled Family-Wage Jobs

- Much of the additional funds would go directly to construction, using Oregonians who have unique skills in transit construction management, freight facilities construction, or track inspection services
- These positions are highly skilled family-wage jobs

Maintains Existing Jobs

- Many of these positions are within the freight companies themselves, such as Roadmaster, MOW Engineer, Bridges and Buildings Manager, Division Engineer, Chief Engineer, etc.
- Many of the railroad company positions are rural: Wishram/The Dalles, Pendleton, Prineville, Ontario, Roseburg with the trickle-down effect to the local communities
- These multi-modal improvements assist in local companies getting their products to market, such as grain, auto parts, and lumber.

Funds Jobs within the Professional Services and Construction Industries

- Of the additional \$10 M requested, approx. \$1 M would go towards Engineering and Construction Management, with some work to be completed by Oregon-based Professional Services firms.
- Many of the planning and engineering consultant positions are in the major cities of Oregon: Portland, Beaverton, Salem, Eugene, Bend
- The additional \$10 M in state funds (local) could leverage up to an additional \$10 M + in federal (FTA/FRA, etc.) and private dollars from the railroads.
- These funds may be the final increment needed to convince a private firm to invest or reinvest in Oregon, rather than take their limited capital funds elsewhere.

The additional funds for ConnectOregon IV will be put to good use maintaining our transportation network. It will also help maintain our existing skilled railroad workforce and add new jobs. Please consider my support of HB 4020 and HB 4028.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Ryan, PE
Transportation Project Manager