



*"The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926"*

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**Testimony Before the House Transportation and  
Economic Development Committee  
Respectfully Submitted by Jana Bader Jarvis on behalf of  
The Oregon Wheat Growers League  
February 2, 2012**

**Co-Chair Bentz, Co-Chair Hunt and Members of the Committee:**

RE: Support for HB 4020 and HB 4028

The Oregon Wheat Growers League is a non-profit trade association representing over 4000 wheat and barley producers across the state of Oregon. Our producers are highly dependent upon well organized, efficient and economical transportation to move product to market and we thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 4020 and HB 4028.

Unlike other industries, agriculture is an industry where the grower pays the freight both to and from the farm and does not have the ability to build related transportation costs into their market price. Additionally, they do not have the opportunity to source the least expensive mode of transportation or negotiate with the rail or barge company as they move their product from the upcountry point of delivery to the point of export. They are directly impacted by the availability and accessibility of affordable modes of transportation and increased efficiencies in all modes of available transportation translate into savings for producers.

These bills speak to the economic value of investment in the transportation infrastructure to support Oregon's economic development. Investments in multimodal forms of transportation will benefit Oregon's agricultural producers by providing them with a variety of methods to move their products while increasing efficiencies, reducing shipping costs, and allowing access to the global market place. Wheat is produced in 22 of Oregon's 36 counties and shipping product to market challenges vary from region to region. Continued investment in Oregon's transportation system will benefit agricultural interests in this state.

Investments in our multimodal transportation systems to move product to market translates into economic development for Oregon. The Oregon Wheat Growers League requests your support of these bills as an investment in Oregon's economic future.