



# C i t y o f P r i n e v i l l e

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February 2, 2012

To: House Transportation & Economic Development Committee

Re: Strong Support for HB 4020, HB 4028 and the ConnectOregon Program

Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Toby Van Altvorst. I am the General Manager of the City of Prineville Railway (COP). COP is a shortline railroad owned and operated by the City of Prineville.

The City of Prineville Railway is fully in support of HB 4020 & HB 4028.

Additional funding for ConnectOregon is critical for improving transportation infrastructure.

Through the ConnectOregon program COP and the region it serves has benefited greatly through increased access to cost effective rail transportation. Approximately 25% of COP's total traffic volume moves through the Prineville Freight Depot that was constructed with ConnectOregon funds. Without the ConnectOregon program the Prineville Freight Depot would not exist as it does today and COP would not be able to participate in the additional traffic it provides, contributing to COP's survival as a viable shortline railroad.

This multi-modal transportation hub creates opportunities for Central Oregon businesses to ship their products to distant markets. Not only does the Prineville Freight Depot connect Oregon business to the rest of the nation, but it allows them to ship internationally as well. Recently, a long time customer has started shipping product to Mexico via railcar.

We are currently completing our ConnectOregon III project, and while we did not opt to submit a ConnectOregon IV grant request, I am here today because we so strongly believe in the importance of investment by the State of Oregon in non-highway transportation infrastructure.

The City of Prineville Railway strongly encourages you to enhance ConnectOregon to improve transportation infrastructure for Oregon business and enhance our state's economy by improving trade opportunities!

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Toby Van Altvorst  
General Manager