



**STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25**

Testimony Supporting SB 1556
House Committee on Business and Labor
February 22, 2012

Good afternoon Co-Chairs and members of the committee. I am State Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and represent Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village, and Fairview, and I am here in support of SB 1556.

This is a jobs bill pure and simple. If passed it has the potential of creating 100's of manufacturing jobs right here in Oregon.

This bill has a narrow focus. It relates only to transit agencies and their purchase of rolling stock: street cars, trolleys, buses, and cars are common examples. By permitting transit agencies to give preference to manufacturers who exceed federal Buy America requirements, we can enable Oregon transit agencies to invest in American jobs. This bill is a common sense change that will help to grow American companies and American jobs.

Because of Federal rules, if an agency wishes to give a preference to a bidder whose vehicle has more US-made content than the 60% currently required by federal standards, the agency needs to be authorized to do so in statute to ensure eligibility for federal funds. SB 1556 is a permissive bill and does not impose a new mandate on local transit agencies. On the contrary, SB 1556 gives Oregon's communities greater control over how their public resources are spent and provides transit agencies with the opportunity to contribute further toward the creation and ongoing sustainability of good, well-paying jobs in Oregon and nationwide.

SB 1556 will help grow jobs with Oregon employers like Clackamas-based United Streetcar, the only modern streetcar company located in the United States and the first in the country to manufacture a Buy America compliant streetcar. The growth of companies like United Streetcar can have ripple effects throughout Oregon's economy, benefitting local manufacturers and creating jobs down the supply chain. Mills Innovations, a small employer in Junction City, is just one example. CEO Dan Mills let me know that their work with United Streetcar is revitalizing their previously struggling business. By enabling greater latitude for contracting, SB 1556 helps encourage growth in domestic manufacturing.

Oregon's communities deserve the opportunity to invest more of their public transit funds in American jobs. I urge you to pass SB 1556 out of committee and send it to the House floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

