



Hamlet of Molalla Prairie

Hamlet of Molalla Prairie
Po Box 1416
Molalla, OR 97938
E-mail: Hamlet@molalla.net

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To: Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Hamlet of the Molalla Prairie asks that you please support House Bill 2945, which creates an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) for rural Clackamas County.

In addition to the Bill's importance to our Hamlet members, it is also important to Clackamas County's more than 385,000 residents, over 32% of which reside in rural areas of the County. Rural Clackamas County has 1,064 miles of paved roads which provide transport for agricultural and forest products to Portland and the entire state. Access to multiple recreational opportunities would not be possible without traveling the roads in rural Clackamas County.

Despite this impressive usage, rural residents do not have a direct say in how limited State transportation dollars are allocated to rural road projects. Area Commissions on Transportation (ACT) are the structures recognized by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to provide this feedback on projects. Rural Clackamas County has the only residents in the entire state of Oregon who want to be represented by an ACT and are not.

Over 120,000 rural Clackamas County residents, including Molalla's Hamlet residents are disenfranchised without representation. Some of Oregon's ACTs represent a population as small as 25,000 people. This proposed house bill is closely patterned after the successful 2009 Senate Bill which created a Lane County ACT and will help us achieve our goal of advocacy for rural residents.

Please join the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, who have made this legislation a priority, by supporting HB 2945. Rural Clackamas County residents deserve to have a voice. We are counting on you to give us the opportunity to be heard. Please support equitable allocation of transportation projects across Oregon. Please support HB 2945.

Thank you.

Board of the Hamlet of Molalla Prairie:
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Harlan Shober, Vice Chair
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