

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HOUSE BILL 3127

**Submitted by Cynthia Thompson, Chief Development Officer,
Ride Connection, Portland, Oregon**

April 15, 2013

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia Thompson, Chief Development Officer for Ride Connection in Portland Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to House Bill 3127 to create subtraction of 42.5 cents per mile from Oregon taxable income for mileage of volunteers.

Ride Connection and its 32 community partners link accessible, responsive transportation to older adults and people with disabilities throughout the Portland Metro region.

Ride Connection provided over 410,000 rides in the 11-12 fiscal year. These rides allowed older adults and people with disabilities to get to the grocery store for their weekly groceries, get to the doctor for dialysis and other critical appointments.

Volunteer drivers are the foundation of the Ride Connection network and represent two-thirds of the 600 drivers working every day to get people to vital services throughout the Portland region. In some parts of the region Ride Connection experiences a 15-20% turndown rate. We have to say no to people who really have no other option. This could result in a much higher cost to society (\$7000 - \$9000 per month) if the person can't age in place due to lack of transportation services and must move to a long-term care facility.

Serving the most rural areas can be challenging and many times the only service available is a volunteer using their own vehicle to meet these important transportation needs. Currently people volunteering their time to make this system work can only take a 14 cent per mile federal deduction, when the business rate is 56.5 cents per mile.

HB 3127 seems like a WIN/WIN and a simple solution that is cost-effective and could encourage local residents to continue to volunteer and provide their time



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To link accessible, responsive transportation with community needs.

to help their neighbors, to help many parents and grandparents and one day possibly even help some of us.

Ride Connection urges your support of HB 3127 to create an Oregon-specific subtraction from taxable income of 42.5 cents per mile for volunteers.