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WESTSIDE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

April 30, 2013

Representative Chris Garrett  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Garrett:

I am writing on behalf of the Westside Economic Alliance (WEA), a non-profit, member-based organization that advocates for a healthy economic environment on the Westside of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan region. The **WEA opposes House Bill 3316** because it creates a politically appointed board that does not fairly represent the metro region.

Washington County is home to many employers including the burgeoning tech and clean energy industries. With a rapidly growing private sector employment base, **Washington County businesses pay a significant portion of the payroll taxes that fund TriMet's operations.** Our members have recognized that TriMet's board understands the valuable link between public transportation and employment.

The Westside Economic Alliance is very concerned that **HB 3316 will decrease and marginalize the westside's representation on TriMet's Board of Directors.** We recognize that TriMet, like many public agencies, is experiencing difficulties. However, diminishing the voices of the businesses that pay for TriMet's operations while simultaneously polarizing the board will not resolve these problems.

And while we are encouraged by the steps TriMet is taking to address out of control health care costs, assistance from the region and political leaders such as yourself is critical if TriMet is to begin restoring service sooner rather than later.

Thank you for your consideration; we would be happy to discuss these concerns with you in greater depth if you are interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pamela Treece". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela Treece  
Executive Director  
Westside Economic Alliance

CC: Speaker Tina Kotek  
Majority Leader Val Hoyle  
Representative Chris Gorsek