



February 22, 2013

To: House Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Re: **Strong Support for HB 2310 – ConnectOregon V**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

HB 2310 (Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for transportation projects funded from Multimodal Transportation Fund) is the *ConnectOregon V* funding bill. The Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE) strongly urges your support for HB 2310.

ORULE is an association for all public and private interests that operate, utilize and support railroads in the State of Oregon. Our membership is quite diverse, including Class I railroads, short lines, passenger rail and related advocates, light rail, ports, shippers, engineering firms, rail manufacturers, etc.

ORULE members are fully in support of HB 2310, or *ConnectOregon V*. We have supported all the previous versions of *ConnectOregon* as well. We believe that the *ConnectOregon* program has proven its worth over the years in this regard.

The *ConnectOregon* website says, "This key strategy ensures Oregon's transportation system is strong, diverse, and efficient. *ConnectOregon* is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce and remove delays."

Recently ODOT developed a report to the legislature. You can download the report through this link: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/pages/connector.aspx>

*ConnectOregon* helps to attract and sustain businesses and jobs in Oregon. It connects Oregon to world markets. The program is unique nationally, and is a valuable addition to the significant investments Oregonians have made recently in the highway network. The Oregon Rail Users' League strongly encourages your committee to pass HB 2310.

Thank you,

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