



"The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926"

**Testimony Before the House Transportation and
Economic Development Committee
Respectfully Submitted by Jana Jarvis on behalf of
The Oregon Wheat Growers League
February 22, 2013**

Chair Read and Members of the Committee:

RE: Support for HB 2310

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in favor of HB 2310 on behalf of the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL). OWGL is a non-profit trade association of over 1400 member wheat and barley producers across the state of Oregon who are highly dependent upon well organized, efficient and economical transportation to move product to market.

Unlike other industries, agriculture is an industry where the grower pays the freight both to and from the farm and does not have the ability to build related transportation costs into their market price. Additionally, they do not have the opportunity to source the least expensive mode of transportation or negotiate with the rail or barge company as they move their product from the upcountry point of delivery to the point of export. They are directly impacted by the availability and accessibility of affordable modes of transportation and increased efficiencies in all modes of available transportation translate into savings for producers.

The investments that Oregon has made through Connect Oregon speak directly to supporting Oregon's economic development. These investments in multimodal forms of transportation benefit Oregon's agricultural producers by providing them with a variety of methods to move products while increasing efficiencies, reducing shipping costs, and allowing access to the global marketplace. Although over half of Oregon's wheat production is in Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties; wheat is produced in 22 of Oregon's 36 counties and shipping product to market challenges vary from region to region. Continued investment in Oregon's transportation system through Connect Oregon will benefit agricultural interests in our state.

For these reasons The Oregon Wheat Growers League requests your support of HB 2310 as an investment in Oregon's economic future.