



City of Hillsboro Testimony on Collective Bargaining  
February 22, 2013  
**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & LABOR**  
Jerry Willey, Mayor, City of Hillsboro  
**Re: HB 2448**

Hon. Chair Doherty and Committee Members:

We respectfully submit this testimony to request modifications of HB 2448 by your Committee that expressly require negotiations of employment issues between employees and mass transit, transportation district or municipal bus system agencies through collective bargaining.

This request is prompted by the need in the Portland Region for Tri-Met to have greater flexibility in such negotiations to enable better agency management over time of employee health benefit costs and corresponding greater agency funding – rather than increasing funding/service cutbacks - of transit services throughout the Portland Region. Currently, such negotiations must occur only through binding arbitration. We're advised by the agency that this has led to increasingly disproportionate employee health benefit costs and, thus, severely diminishing agency capacity to allocate transit fare and other agency revenues to direct transit services.

Daily commuters in Hillsboro and throughout the Portland Region depend heavily on transit to travel to/from work and other daytime destinations. Enactment of this modification to HB 2448 and its passage by the 2013 Legislature would be a big step toward securing and expanding Tri-Met transit services that are needed by, and heavily relied upon by all segments of the Region's populace and especially its more economically-challenged residents.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

CITY OF HILLSBORO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jerry W. Willey', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jerry W. Willey  
Mayor