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SB 260

Senate Business and Transportation Committee

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Thank you for accepting testimony today in support of *ConnectOregon*. I represent Teevin Bros, a timber, quarry and intermodal transportation company with operations in Knappa, Rainier, Eugene, Seaside and Crabtree, Oregon.

In our operations, *ConnectOregon* has been a private/public partnership that has created more than 100 new jobs during this recession while taking more than 40,000 trucks off the highway system annually. *ConnectOregon* has created new infrastructure to seamlessly integrate highway, rail and marine highway systems. Our primary operation in Rainier is the base for originating 22 Handi-Max size vessel sailings of export timber to Asian markets annually; every three week barge service to Hawaii; every two week service to Los Angeles/Long Beach, and every four week service to San Diego and Baja California, Mexico. In addition, the facility receives timber and construction materials originating from Idaho; ships specialty cargoes to DOD facilities in Kwajalein and the Marshall Islands; and specific cargoes to Alaska.

The *ConnectOregon* program recognizes the importance of making new intermodal connections or enhancing existing connections. In doing so, during an economic downturn, new jobs have been created, new opportunities for Oregon business have been developed, new markets have been found for Oregon products and logistics chains diversified.

In our Rainier operation, there are 80 new jobs since 2010. We have grown operations in Eugene and Crabtree to keep up. Outside Teevin Bros, sixty-two Oregon businesses, employing more than 1500 people, ship product to market through an intermodal facility that was improved and expanded with assistance from *ConnectOregon*. Lumber from Willamette Valley mills travels across the Pacific and coastwise to California and Mexico; steel products from McMinnville are building Marine Corps bases in Hawaii and Navy housing in Guam. Oregon vendors provided critical components for the Eastern Pacific Tsunami warning center because they could get oversized cargo to the jobsite without having to go to Washington State or California.

Environmentally, the *ConnectOregon* projects undertaken by Teevin Bros have benefitted all Oregonians when freight is transported more efficiently and moved away from urban centers. More than 40,000 truck-trips have been eliminated, reducing air emissions and decreasing maintenance on our highways. This benefits the Columbia River Gorge, the Portland metropolitan area and the Willamette Valley.

ConnectOregon is good business. Through the program jobs are created, expanded and retained; new market opportunities for Oregon businesses are found, transportation costs to Oregon businesses are reduced; freight mobility moves off the highway to rail and marine systems; and the environment wins through significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from reduced truck traffic.

Teevin Bros is bullish on *ConnectOregon* and strongly urges the legislature to keep this unique program alive and viable for a thriving Oregon economy.

Very respectfully

Paul Langner
Teevin Bros. and President of the Oregon Rail Users League (ORULE)