



February 19, 2013

To: Senate Business and Transportation Committee

Re: **Strong Support for SB 260 – ConnectOregon V**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this written statement in lieu of personal testimony, since we have a good slate of members testifying in person. SB 260 - Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for transportation projects funded from Multimodal Transportation Fund. This is the *ConnectOregon V* funding bill. The Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE) strongly urges your support for SB 260.

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 SB 260, 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 SB 260.

Thank you,

Lana Butterfield
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