

Dear Chair Gelser and distinguished members of the House Education Committee

I am Lynne Mutrie, 449 C Avenue, Lake Oswego, 97034. I represent Mutrie Consulting. I help communities statewide prepare and implement programs and plans to help children walk and bike safely to school and throughout their community. I am here to support HB 2500. This is a very important bill for the health and safety of communities now and in the future. We must make the opportunity to choose safe, active transportation choices easy. Giving districts the option to use transportation funds to start or continue and their active transportation plans, programs and network is best for local districts, the children they serve, and best for the state.

We've all heard about childhood in-activity and the related problems like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and depression:

- In one generation the percentage of children walking and biking to school dropped from 50% in 1969 to 13% in 2009.
- Only one in five students is getting the US Surgeon General's recommended 60 minutes of exercise per day.
- Presently, 17% percent of 2-19 year olds are obese, 33% are overweight, obese or at risk of becoming so.

Conversely:

- Children from 5-19 years old who cycled or walked to school performed measurably better on tasks demanding concentration, the effects lasted for up to four hours and overall academic performance was up.
- Children who walked and biked to school participated in more physical activity throughout the day, had less incidents of obesity, high blood pressure or diabetes.

Locally, I have been helping Beaverton's Safe Routes to School program over the past 3 years. We recently completed mapping of walk and biking routes at the 41 K-8 schools and encourage weekly and monthly events. Last week I walked with the weekly Sexton Mountain Elementary walk to school day. I'd like to share some of the conversations I had along the route:

The Teacher: "I get to walk with kids not as a teacher, and I get to know them better. And when in class, I immediately see who has walked, they are the one reading during silent reading!" Jim Hayhurst, Grade 2/3 teacher, Sexton Mountain Elementary

The Parking Lot Guards: "With more kids walking, my job is easy, and everyone stays safe."
Teaching Assistant

The Crossing Guard: "I love seeing the kids. With the group crossing together, all cars stop and smile." Jeanie, Crossing Guard Sexton Mountain Rd/SW155th

The Parent: "Thank you! Pippa won't let me forget that it's walk to school day. She loves it and now she walks to school every day. But walking with friends is best, and it makes me feel better. It's the social event of the week." Holly Heaver, Parent

Another Parent: "With that sidewalk now completed, I feel better letting my daughter walk." David Harrison, PTO President

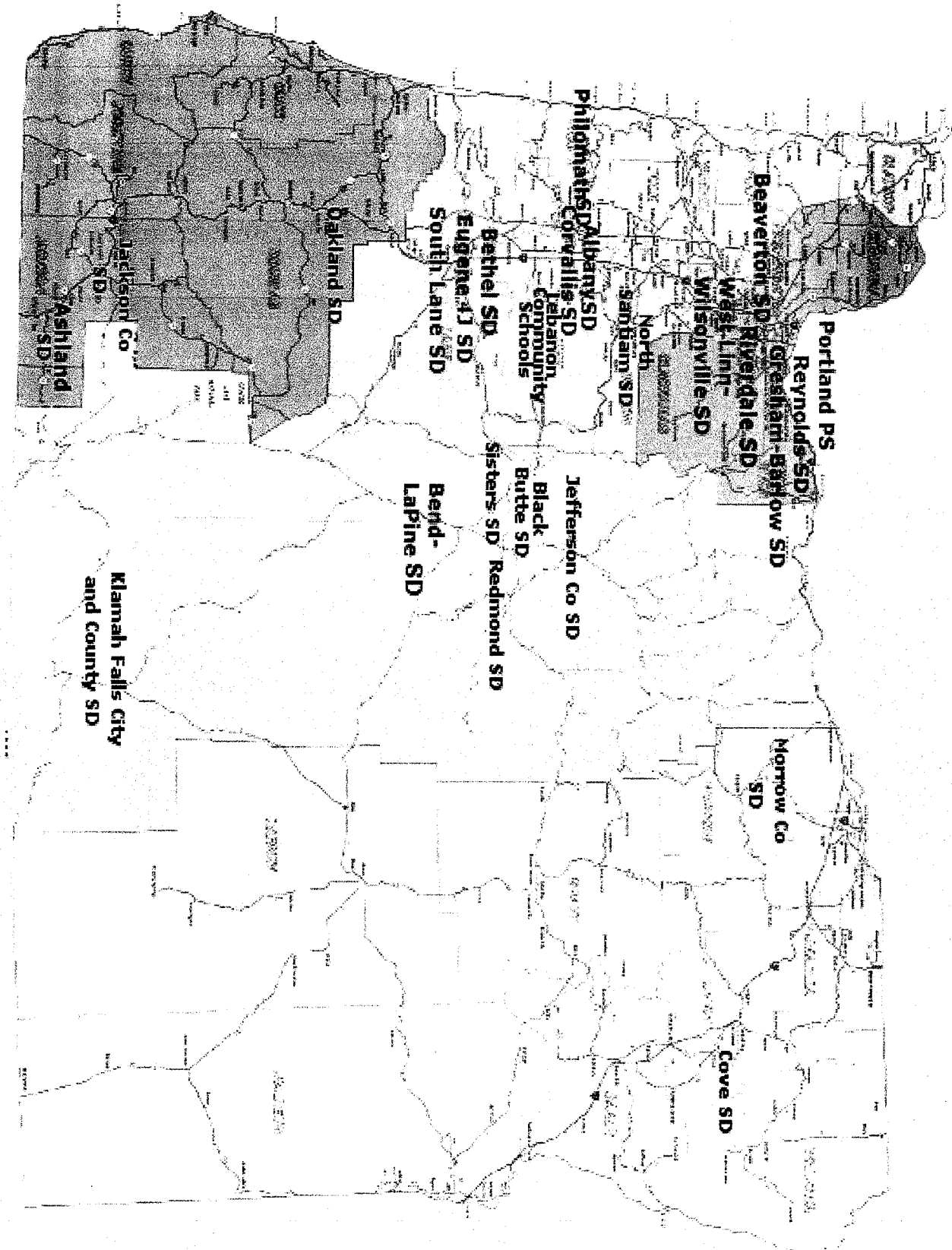
The Principal: "I love this! When we had to cut a bus route, I had options to give parents." Nicole Will, Principal, Cooper Mountain Elementary.

For a statewide perspective, please see the Oregon map in your package. This map represents most of the school districts that have done projects that promote safe and fun walking and biking to school and throughout the community. These districts have witnessed the benefits. The projects range from Walk+Bike to School Day, to speed monitoring and enforcement, to sidewalk and crosswalk projects so children can walk and cross safely.

Allowing school districts the ability to put active transportation options as a priority attached to a possible funding mechanism is the responsible choice. It's the right thing to do!

Thank you for allowing me to address the committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Portland PS

Reynolds SD

Gresham-Brown SD

Beaverton SD

Riverdale SD

West Linn

Wilsonville SD

Albany SD

Philomath SD

Corvallis SD

Lebanon Community Schools

North

San Dam SD

Bethel SD

Eugene, JJ SD

South Lane SD

Jefferson Co SD

Black Butte SD

Sisters SD

Redmond SD

Bend-Lapine SD

Oakland SD

Jackson Co SD

Ashland SD

Morrow Co SD

Cove SD

Klamath Falls City and County SD

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