



April 30, 2015

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Sent via email to Sen.LeeBeyer@state.or.us

RE: Support for Senate Joint Resolution 16

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

For the past two decades, the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) has united a diverse group of organizations to promote healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in the Portland metro region. Through the use of research, policy analysis, and convening, CLF supports communities to take action for equitable development, prosperous and livable communities, and a healthy environment.

The Coalition for a Livable Future enthusiastically supports Senate Joint Resolution 16. We need a variety of transportation modes to get to work, to school and to meet our every day needs. We also need efficient transportation systems to keep the economy moving. SJR 16 helps Oregon meet its transportation needs, while helping reduce traffic congestion and air and climate pollution from vehicles.

Currently, gas taxes and motor vehicle fees can only be spent on maintenance and construction of roads. The current law limits the state's ability to reduce emissions from transportation; improve air quality; reduce people's reliance on cars; and provide travel options for many seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and others who do not drive. SJR 16 would refer to voters a constitutional amendment to allow gas taxes and fees to be spent on bus, rail, bicycle and pedestrian facilities to address these issues. SJR 16 is a modest expansion consistent with the current approach, and we hope you will support it.

Thank you for the consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mara Gross", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mara Gross, Executive Director
Coalition for a Livable Future

CC: Senator Rod Monroe
Senator Chuck Riley
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Senator Fred Girod
James LaBar