

SALEM - KEIZER TRANSIT

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March 30, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Senator Johnson and Representative Gomberg,

Thank you for allowing Salem-Keizer Transit to submit testimony in support of Oregon's Amtrak Cascades passenger rail service. Oregon has sponsored intercity passenger service between Eugene and Portland as part of the service in the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor between Eugene and Vancouver, BC since 1994.

Oregon needs to continue investments in multimodal transportation options that provide vital services to citizens across the state. The Amtrak Cascades passenger rail line increases tourism opportunities, reduces greenhouse gas emissions when utilized as an alternative transportation mode; it provides job options for hundreds of Oregonians and generated over \$1.5 million in tax revenue for the state last year.

The Amtrak Cascades passenger rail line connects citizens to Salem-Keizer Transit's service district and provides alternative transportation options for the citizens in the area. Cherriots and Amtrak continue to build a deep relationship focused on a thriving multimodal transportation system in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

However, without legislative support, these interconnected transportation options would disappear. The results would have far-reaching negative impacts on local economies along the line. Therefore, Salem-Keizer Transit urges your support for adequate passenger rail funding in the 2015-2017 legislatively adopted budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Pollock".

Allan Pollock
General Manager