



CITY OF

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

Charlie Hales, Mayor  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable David Gomberg, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic  
Development  
900 Court St, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

We write in support of funding for the passenger rail program. Since 1994 Oregon has invested nearly \$300 million in state and federal resources in improving and operating the passenger rail corridor. Continuing operations of the Amtrak Cascades service will ensure that these significant investments are preserved.

Amtrak Cascades is one of the nation's highest ridership passenger rail services. In 2013, 215,096 people used Amtrak Cascades trains and supporting buses between Portland and Eugene. Through a partnership with Washington State's Department of Transportation, service also connects with Seattle and Vancouver, BC. An interruption to passenger rail service could result in decreased tourism and economic activity for our state.

Travel by passenger rail also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and diminishes congestion on our roadways. Amtrak Cascades Service connects to transit systems in Portland, Salem and Eugene and affords riders with accessible transportation alternatives.

As the Mayor and Commissioner in Charge of the Portland Bureau of Transportation, we support continued Amtrak Cascade Service and respectfully request your support to fund this vital service.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Steve Novick  
Commissioner in Charge  
Portland Bureau of Transportation