

January 30, 2016

Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Transportation & Economic Development Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair McKeown and members of the committee,

A livable community provides many resources to its citizens, including transportation options, that ensure a safe and secure place to live, work and engage in the civic, economic and social life of the community.

Oregon's rural and smaller urban transit services thrive to meet the transportation needs of their citizens. But many of our transit districts – including the Rogue Valley Transportation District - face operational challenges and struggle to maintain services, resulting in underserved communities that impacts employers and workers, seniors and those disabled, students and many others.

HB 4078 will help provide a stable and equitable source of funding for rural and smaller urban transit providers – funding that allow them to access federal funds that otherwise would be left on the table. The funding from HB 4078 provides for reasonable, fiscally sound accountability requirements. Lastly, HB 4078 will help ensure that transit providers have the funds necessary to meet the growing and changing needs of their communities.

I urge your support of HB 4078.

Thank you,

Rick Bennett
Medford, Oregon