

SALEM - KEIZER TRANSIT

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February 3, 2016

Honorable Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: HB 4078 – Transit Expansion Fund

Members of the Committee:

Salem-Keizer Transit (Cherriots) provides fixed route public transit and paratransit services to the Salem-Keizer community. In addition, Cherriots operates commuter service to Wilsonville and Grande Ronde, and provides the Chemeketa Area Regional Transportation System (CARTS) to rural communities in Marion and Polk counties.

We are the public transit provider to seniors and people with disabilities in the area through our Cherriots and CherryLift service, RED Line Shopper Shuttle and Dial-a-Ride service. Without Cherriots providing these vital services to our most vulnerable populations, many would not have the ability to shop for food, attend a medical appointment or accomplish many of the necessities we take for granted.

However, Cherriots, like many of the stakeholders urging your support for HB 4078, faces significant challenges around funding these necessary services. Without a dedicated statewide funding source for public transit, Cherriots struggles to maintain the level of service this community needs to thrive.

Cherriots urges your support for HB 4078, creating and funding the *Transit Expansion Fund*, which would allocate general fund dollars to match federal funds and allow our public transit providers to begin investing in their delivery systems.

We believe the state has a responsibility to find innovative solutions for public transit funding in Oregon. That includes the identification of dedicated funding for public transit services. We appreciate Representative Bill Post's efforts towards continuing the dialogue on this issue and urge your support for HB 4078.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Pollock", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Allan Pollock
General Manager