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## Testimony on HB 4078 February 3, 2016

AARP defines livable communities are great places for people of all ages and abilities to live, work and play. Transportation and mobility options are critical factors in creating vibrant and livable communities where everyone can thrive. And as our population ages, the importance of public transportation and transit options cannot be emphasized enough.

According to an AARP study, a man aged 70 today is likely to outlive his ability to drive by 6 years. A woman aged 70 is likely to outlive her ability to drive by 11 years. And a study from the Surface Transportation Project shows that more than half of all non-drivers age 65 and over stay at home on any given day because of limited transportation options, leading to social isolation. Populations most impacted by this trend are those living in rural, smaller metropolitan suburban communities as well as communities of color and households with no car.

AARP's transportation and mobility principles state that all individuals should have a range of safe, accessible, dependable, and affordable transportation options including alternatives to driving that enhance mobility, promote independence, facilitate employment opportunities, assure nonemergency transportation to medical services, and foster social engagement. They call for affordable transportation options and providing transit services that equitably connect people to jobs and services, including low- and moderate-income or older people, who may not have access to cars.

Oregon's rural and smaller metro transit services are largely underfunded and struggle to meet the transportation needs of all their residents. In the face of operational challenges, many transit districts are being forced to reduce services leaving vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities, low-income workers and sections of their community stranded.

HB 4078 is an important step toward helping provide a stable and equitable source of funding for rural and smaller urban transit providers to begin meeting the growing and changing needs of their communities. The funding from HB 4078 provides for reasonable, fiscally sound accountability requirements and would allow providers to access federal funds that otherwise would be left on the table.

On behalf of the over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, I urge you to support HB 4078.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald J. Cohen".

Gerald J Cohen JD, MPA  
AARP Oregon State Director

AARP  
Real Possibilities