



133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • fax (503) 223-0073 • [www.friends.org](http://www.friends.org)

Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155 • fax (541) 474-9389

Willamette Valley Office • PO Box 51252 • Eugene, OR 97405 • (541) 520-3763 • fax (503) 223-0073

February 3, 2016

Rep. Caddy McKeown, Chair  
House Transportation and Economic Development Committee  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR

Re: HB 4078

Dear Chair McKeon and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports HB 4078, which establishes a fund that has the potential to benefit the 41 transit providers in Oregon that do not have access to payroll tax funding. Many of Oregon's rural communities struggle to provide transit service by patching together various funding sources, some of which are not predictable year-to-year. And yet, demand for these services is increasing.

Access to transit is critical component of maintaining livable and affordable communities. The average cost of owning a car in the United State is about \$9,000/year. If a household can get by with one less car, or no car at all, because of transit access, that leaves more money for housing, health care, education, and more.

In addition, about 25% of the population does not drive because of age, physical reasons, or choice. As life changes, transit provides the ability to stay in one's community and still reach daily needs.

While the Transit Expansion Fund is not funded by this bill, it is a step in a needed direction.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Policy Director and Staff Attorney