



February 18, 2016

Honorable Representative Shemia Fagan, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Salem-Keizer Transit Urges Support for SB 1527

Members of the Committee:

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

Cherriots is investigating electronic payment systems like Smart Cards and eFare. As we develop new and innovative fare technologies that seek to integrate CARTS and other systems, we are closely monitoring discussions around unclaimed fare revenue. The potential loss of fare revenue resulting from being labeled "unclaimed property" is a concern.

With this in mind, Cherriots urges your support for SB 1527, which seeks to exempt prepaid transportation cards from the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act. With transit districts already under dire financial pressures across the state, the potential for revenue reversion is troubling and a strong disincentive to transition to eFare options.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Sincerely,

Allan Pollock
General Manager, Salem-Keizer Transit