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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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House Committee on Transportation Policy
Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room 431
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745 – Transit Funding

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Regional transit plays an important role in rural communities like ours. Offering our citizens options for commuting to the larger urban centers in Central Oregon provides them access to services that are limited in the smaller outlying communities. Our regional transit system also improves access to a much larger workforce in the greater Central Oregon Area. COIC has developed an effective regional transit system, but will require a broader funding base to expand services to the rural communities.

A clarification to ORS190 offers a number of benefits to our Central Oregon Communities. It gives them local control -- each city can choose the appropriate level of service, funding amount, and tool for funding transit in their community. It maximizes efficiency, by retaining regional management for the transit system, minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service. It drives economic development, helping local companies attract workers by giving employees a public transportation option that saves time and money. Some communities may choose to ask voters to support funding initiatives, and other communities may not be ready any time soon. Giving Central Oregon communities the option to seek transit funding from voters is important to our region.

So please, encourage the House Transportation Committee to move HB 2745 forward, and support its passage in this session. Thank you for giving local control of future transit initiatives into the hands of Central Oregon voters.

Signature,



Casey D. Kaiser
Executive Director