

From: TWYLA BAGGARLEY
To: [JWMTR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Joint Ways and Means Public Hearing 3/28/17 - Amtrak Cascades Rail
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:00:32 PM

Hello,

I am unfortunately unable to make it to the public testimony meeting tomorrow, but wanted to voice my opinions/concerns on this matter.

I strongly urge the budgetary decision makers to restore the funding for Amtrak Cascades service from Portland-Eugene for this next 2 year cycle and beyond. Not only is this service on the upswing for demand/ridership, but the state of Washington is making several enhancements to their portion that will benefit our state as well. This includes: newer/more efficient locomotives, faster track speeds, and better on time performance. There are also other schedule changes that can be made to increase ridership/revenue as well going forward to help benefit from Washington's upgrades. Our state just bought new trainsets a few years ago, and that investment would be a complete waste now if our state ended this service.

If this service is terminated, it will be very difficult to get it back, if not impossible. Please think for the long term future of our state as the population is growing immensely. Gas prices WILL rise eventually and if Oregonians are left with no other transportation options, it will cripple our tourism/economy. Amtrak's national ridership hit an all time high in FY16, people are turning to trains.

I frequently ride these trains and there has been an increase in ridership over this past year, and those numbers back that up. We cannot simply rely on just I-5 to move our whole Willamette Valley dense population, especially with extreme weather. Amtrak Cascades trains ran with very minimal delay when I-5 either was closed, or required chains. Trains are safer, more efficient, and cleaner than all other modes of transportation. Please fund these trains, and look for a more stable revenue source to keep these trains running for years to come. These trains are very important to a lot of Oregon citizens, including me. Please keep them running

Thank you for reading this, my apologies for not being able to make it to the public testimony.

Twyla Baggarley

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