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March 28, 2017

Joint Committee on Way and Means,
Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5540

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and Committee members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports the state funding for Cascades Amtrak contained in SB 5540, of \$8.735 million. Without this state contribution, it is likely that Amtrak service between Eugene and Portland will shut down this year. If service is eliminated, it will be difficult and expensive to reinstate in the future.

The Amtrak Cascades service from Eugene to Vancouver, BC serves approximately 800,000 passengers each year. It also provides significant economic benefits, including spending on travel and related activities, generating millions of dollars in state and local tax revenues.

By providing an alternative to driving, especially in the I-5 corridor, Amtrak Cascades is one tool in the toolbox of relieving congestion through an environmentally sound alternative.

We hope you will support ODOT's request of \$8.735 for the Amtrak cascades service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Mary Kyle McCurdy, Deputy Director