

From: bmk5@comcast.net
To: [JWMTR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Amtrak Cascades Oregon Rail Funding
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:50:30 PM

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing today to highly urge you to continue funding for Oregon's Amtrak Cascades rail service. Our state needs this service as Interstate 5 is becoming a bottleneck in so many areas and as our state's population is growing. Washington State and California have very sound rail programs, and Oregonians deserve other options to travel other than everyone just driving themselves. This service has been very important to me as well as the whole Eugene community, and I am sure for other towns along the route. During the freezing rain storms a few months ago, Amtrak Cascades ran in these conditions. We need alternatives other than just driving in cases like this, and for people who can't drive. They serve a much greater economic purpose to towns along the line and shutting them down would likely cause it to be gone forever. Ridership has increased and so has revenue in the Oregon section, and the improvements coming to Washington this year will only enhance those numbers at no cost to Oregon.

I urge you to please continue this funding as I, as well as my fellow peers, are frequent riders of this service. Rail transportation popularity is increasing across the country, please do not set our state back and put us at a big disadvantage for our quality of life and travel. Oregonians want these trains and this service.

Thank you for your time on this matter

Kris Evans