



PROTECTING YOUR  
RIGHT TO ROAM

April 4, 2017

## Oregon Walks: Testimony to House Transportation Policy Committee Regarding HB 3231

Oregon Walks is the state's pedestrian advocacy organization working to make walking a safe, convenient, and accessible transportation option for all Oregonians regardless of which community they call home. **We are writing you to express our strong opposition to HB 3231.**

At a time when municipalities across the greater Portland region are trying to overcome the negative impacts of existing highways to build livable communities where people can get around in their daily lives in ways beyond using than an automobile, HB 3231's proposed westside bypass is antiquated and unnecessary. Building a limited access highway through valuable farmland and open space is antithetical to regional and state transportation and land use goals. History clearly tells us that a new highway will result in sprawl, increased automobile use and congestion, communities that are ripped apart, additional greenhouse gases, and more roadway deaths and injuries. These are outcomes we simply cannot and will not accept.

Oregon Walks is keenly aware of the challenges our state's transportation system faces. We understand that existing funding is not enough to maintain what we currently have nor is it enough to make our roads safer for everyone. Under these realities, we cannot afford to spend a single dollar on a sprawl-inducing, expensive boondoggle like the westside bypass highway. We would encourage you, instead, to focus your efforts on innovative policies and projects that will lead to a more balanced transportation system, and more livable, walkable communities.

Please oppose HB 3231.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Mickelberry".

Noel Mickelberry  
Executive Director, Oregon Walks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Brown".

Aaron Brown  
Board President, Oregon Walks