



May 19, 2017

To: Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee

Re: **Strong Support for *ConnectOregon* Funding in SB 5530**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE) urges support for *ConnectOregon* funding in SB 5530. ORULE is an association for all public and private interests that operate, utilize and support railroads in the State of Oregon. Our membership is quite diverse, including Class I railroads, short lines, passenger rail and related advocates, light rail, ports, shippers, engineering firms, rail manufacturers, etc.

ORULE is fully in support of SB 5530, which funds *ConnectOregon* at \$71,146,408. We have supported all the previous versions of *ConnectOregon* as well in years past. One of our purposes as an association is to encourage economic growth within the State of Oregon. We believe that the *ConnectOregon* program has proven its worth over the years in this regard.

The *ConnectOregon* website says, "This key strategy ensures Oregon's transportation system is strong, diverse, and efficient. *ConnectOregon* is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce and remove delays."

*ConnectOregon* helps to attract and sustain business and jobs in Oregon and connects Oregon to world markets. The program is unique nationally, and is a valuable addition to the significant investments Oregonians have made recently in the highway network. The Oregon Rail Users' League strongly encourages your committee to pass SB 5530 with full funding for *ConnectOregon*.

Thank you,

Rob Didelius, President  
Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE)

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