



Crook County

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June 2, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Hon. Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Hon. Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room 354
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745B

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee,

As a County Commissioner for Crook County, I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745B. This bill would give voters in the Central Oregon region a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Though comprising almost eight thousand square miles, residents of the Central Oregon region of Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties frequently travel to each other's communities for business, shopping, and recreation. Folks living in Powell Butte may commute to Redmond for work, travel to Warm Springs for hiking and fishing, and then return to Prineville for church and school. People in Madras may come to Prineville to attend their physician, or people in La Pine may visit family in Culver. Because of the distances involved, motorized transit is realistically the only option for our local residents. Not everyone has access to a car, making access to reliable mass transit an essential for many of our friends and neighbors.

HB 2745B offers a number of benefits to our Central Oregon communities. It gives them local control -- each city can choose the appropriate level of service, funding amount, and tool for funding mass transit in their community. It maximizes efficiency, by retaining regional management for the transit system, minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service. It drives economic development, helping local companies attract workers by giving employees a public transportation option that saves time and money. Some communities may choose to ask voters to support funding initiatives, and other communities may not be ready any time soon. Giving Central Oregon communities the option to seek transit funding from voters is important to our region.

I ask the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee to support the passage of HB 2745B this session. Thank you for your support for his legislation, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jerry Brummer, Crook County Commissioner