

PRINEVILLE-CROOK COUNTY EST. 1882  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
AND VISITOR CENTER Forever Country

June 3, 2017

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

RE: Support for HB 2745B

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

I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745B, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Regional transit plays an important role in developing the rural communities in Central Oregon like ours. Offering the citizens of Crook County options for commuting to the larger population centers in Central Oregon improves access to the jobs and services that can be more limited in the smaller communities. Our regional transit system can also provide our employers access to a much larger workforce that resides outside of our community. COIC has developed an effective regional transit system, but will require a broader funding base to expand services to the rural communities like Crook County.

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 a tool for funding 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.

We ask the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee to support the passage of HB 2745B this session. Thank you for giving local control of future transit initiatives into the hands of Central Oregon voters.

Signature,



Casey D. Kaiser  
Executive Director