



To: Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization

From: Ralph Saperstein, on behalf of the Coos Siskiyou Shippers Coalition

Subject: Testimony on HB 2017

Date: June 7, 2017

Co-Chairs McKeown & Beyer,

I am Ralph Saperstein and I'm appearing before you tonight representing the Coos Siskiyou Shippers Coalition. The goal of the coalition is to maintain safe and efficient rail service for wood product and other manufacturing facilities on the South Coast in Douglas and Coos Counties. Connect Oregon has been critical to the restoration of rail service on the South Coast since the former shortline, Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad shutoff rail service in 2007.

Railroads are critical transportation means for businesses on the South Coast, as evidenced by the port of Coos Bay taking over the short line serving Coos Bay and surrounding communities. We are concerned with the change in the private match for Connect Oregon funds increasing to 50%. This change will serve to discourage short lines and adjacent communities from seeking Connect Oregon projects. We support maintaining the current 30% match for small railroads.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our position for the record on this critically important comprehensive Transportation Package.