

June 7th, 2017

**Testimony on House Bill 2017  
To the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization**

Submitted by: Co-Chairs, Oregon Business Leaders' Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force

**Merritt Paulson**

Owner and Chief Executive Officer,  
Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns  
Oregon Board of Trustees,  
The Nature Conservancy

**John Carter**

Oregon Board of Trustees,  
The Nature Conservancy

In January of 2016, we convened the Oregon Business Leaders' Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Task Force to design a five-year strategy for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining the viability and competitive health of Oregon businesses. As you will see from list below, task force members represented a wide range of business sectors from manufacturing and property development, to farming and forestry. Our goal was to identify cost effective strategies to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and improving Oregon's economy.

We are writing today on behalf of the task force to support the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization's inclusion of measures to address congestion in the Portland metropolitan area in House Bill 2017. We appreciate that the bill directs the Oregon Transportation Commission to focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation. Further, we support the "Traffic Congestion Relief Program" (Section 120) that directs the Commission to develop a congestion pricing program for the Portland Metropolitan Area. This proposal closely mirrors the [Task Force's top recommendation](#) for reducing emissions and improving Oregon's economy:

- Direct and fund the Oregon Department of Transportation to work with the City of Portland, TriMet and Metro to design and implement congestion pricing and a complementary transit improvement program for the Portland metropolitan area.

The transportation sector contributes 37 percent of Oregon's GHG emissions. Congestion is growing in the Portland metropolitan area. Accelerating action to put a price on road use during peak hours of the day is the best long-term solution for reducing congestion.

In 2014, congestion cost businesses and families \$1.8 billion in wasted time and fuel. With Portland continuing to grow at record pace, the problem is getting worse every day. By 2040, congestion will cost the average household 69 hours per year, at a huge expense to Oregon's economy. Not only does it create challenges for local commuters and businesses, it also makes it difficult for producers across the state to move their goods into and through Portland in a predictable, reliable and timely fashion. "Congestion Pricing" creates incentives to drive at less crowded times, or use alternate modes of transportation. Versions of congestion pricing have been used successfully in 14 other states, and in cities such as London and Stockholm.

We appreciate the Committee's leadership in advancing this proposal and urge the legislature to support the proposal by providing sufficient funding to the Oregon Transportation Commission and authorizing them to develop a congestion pricing program for the Portland metropolitan area. Ideally, the final bill would direct the Oregon Transportation Commission to focus on designing a congestion pricing program that would result in the most efficient use of our transportation system in and around Portland.

Putting a price on road use during peak hours was just the kind of solution our task force hoped to identify – one that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and improving Oregon's economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

### **Oregon Business Leaders' Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force Members**

John Carter, Oregon Board of Trustees, The Nature Conservancy  
Merritt Paulson, Owner and Chief Executive Officer, Portland Timbers and Portland Thorns  
Rich Brown, Senior Vice President, Environment Social Governance, Bank of America  
Bruce Daucsavage, President, Ochoco Lumber Company  
Mark Edlen, Managing Partner, Gerding Edlen  
Jill Eiland, Retired Public Affairs Director, Intel Corporation  
Scott Folk, Senior Vice President - Resources, Roseburg Forest Products  
Jack Isselmann, Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Programs, The Greenbrier Companies  
Margaret Kirkpatrick, Chair of the Oregon Board of Trustees, The Nature Conservancy  
Bob Levy, Owner, Windy River and L&L Farms  
Marty Myers, General Manager, Threemile Canyon Farms  
Jim Piro, President and CEO, Portland General Electric  
Steve Pratt, Retired Chairman of the Board, ESCO Corporation  
Curtis Robinhold, Deputy Executive Director, Port of Portland  
Lane Shetterly, Partner, Shetterly Irick and Ozias  
Debra Smith, General Manager, Central Lincoln People's Utility District  
Sam Tannahill, Founder, A to Z Wineworks/REX HILL  
Chris Taylor, Portland City Manager, Google  
Bill Thorndike, President, Medford Fabrication  
Bill Wyatt, Executive Director, Port of Portland