Dear Representatives:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 558.

I volunteer with the Mountain View Neighborhood Association in Bend, Oregon. I follow transportation issues and report to the Board of the MVNA. The City of Bend has many traffic and transportation challenges. One of the most common transportation problems cited for the Mountain View area is speeding and reckless driving on residential streets. The Board has discussed this problem many times and sponsored an educational grant application to educate residents about the dangers of speeding on residential streets. The grant was awarded and a local educational program will begin in a few months.

A major obstacle to lowering residential speed limits has been state law and regulations. The 25 MPH limit on Bend residential streets is mandated by state law and regulation. City officials have been unable to reduce residential speed limits because of state requirements. There is overwhelming support for a 20 MPH speed limit on residential streets in Bend. Permitting City officials to establish 20 MPH speed limits in residential areas will go a long way to addressing the speeding problem. With lower speeds residents feel safer about walking, biking, and allowing children to walk to school.

I urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 558.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

David Gurule 971.678.3986