



March 18, 2019

House Revenue Committee

Support for HB 2978

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Lana Butterfield, Executive Director for the Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE). As background, ORULE is an association comprised of public and private entities that recognize the numerous benefits of safe, efficient railroad infrastructure serving the state of Oregon. The benefits of a robust railroad network include the following: economic opportunity in communities around the state; reduced congestion and increased safety on the state's roads and highways; and improved air quality.

ORULE fully and enthusiastically supports HB 2978, which creates a tax credit for short line railroad rehabilitation projects. This bill if passed will improve the rail transportation network across the state. It will benefit not only the short line railroads themselves, but also the shippers that they serve and their employees as well. There are many jobs supported by freight movement provided by the small railroads across Oregon.

Better movement of freight benefits all of Oregon. Short lines will have a much better ability to plan for the long-term, supporting the future growth and development of railroad customers in Oregon, under HB 2978. It will help keep help Oregon business and industry competitive in the national and global markets.

ORULE encourages you to pass HB 2978. Thanks for your consideration.

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