



Testimony in Support House Bill 2015
April 17, 2019, 4:30 pm
Joint Committee on Transportation

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of EUVALCREE and organization that serves 8 counties in Eastern Oregon, I respectfully urge you to support HB 2015 that allows all community members equal access to roads. As an organization whose purpose is to develop the social capital and leadership capacity of our community members, it is vital that as a state, it support the opportunity for the members of our community to gain access to allow them to be self-sustained and strong contributing members of society.

Historically families and children of color encounter barriers that limits their ability to gain access to opportunities and inherently their ability to be successful. By supporting this bill, we as a community are removing barriers and increasing access so that families may have the opportunity to be successful, thriving and providing strong futures for the children of our great state.

Transportation, an essential activity, is not available to all members of the communities. The ability to allow families to get to and from school, commute to work, and tend the needs of their families or care for family and neighbors in need is important to their success. In addition, we are ensuring that every individual driving can pass a written safety exam and driver's test as well as provide proof of identity and insurance which will make Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone.

The needs and barriers are exacerbated in rural communities. Lack of transportation or alternative infrastructure and limited resources and lack of support increases the challenges faced by families, businesses and industries. Low-income families comprise the backbone of all the major industries in rural Oregon. Agriculture and manufacturing are two of the largest industries that require and need community members to have access to reliable transportation and the ability to be present for their jobs to ensure the success of the various businesses which directly contributes the economy and well-being of the region.

As a great state, we need to preserve the investments in our families and in their ability to be self-sustained. By increasing access to transportation, we are limiting the barriers

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families encounter daily. Increasing access, increases opportunities for families to be successful and strong contributing members of society. By having self-sustained families, we will have strong and prosperous state.

For these reasons I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to support HB 2015. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gustavo Morales', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Gustavo Morales
Executive Director
EUVALCREE