

**Written Testimony to the Joint Transportation Committee  
on House Bill 2846**

**May 7, 2019**

**Chris Hagerbaumer, Deputy Director of Programs & Administration  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 2846.

Many state highways function as urban streets where they pass through urban areas. Because of their historic role as highways and ODOT's approach to managing these roads for high-speed traffic, these so-called "orphan highways" are plagued by crashes, and economic and community development is inhibited. Cities are better situated to manage these orphan highways, but they are often in poor state-of-repair and require a substantial investment to upgrade them to safer standards.

The solution supported by both cities and ODOT is jurisdictional transfer—the transferring of ownership from ODOT to the appropriate city. However, cities need some compensation to take on the needed upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

HB 2846 would identify highways that are candidates for jurisdictional transfer and develop a fund to make such transfers possible for cities.

Jurisdictional transfers will reduce fatalities and injuries and will allow cities to pursue their goals to create more economically vibrant communities with equitable transportation access for all.

Many task forces and committees have recommended jurisdictional transfers over the years, including the Transportation Vision Panel that reported to Governor Brown in May of 2016: [One Oregon: A Vision for Oregon's Transportation System](#).

Oregon Environmental Council urges your support of HB 2846. Thank you for your consideration.