

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Subcommittee on Civil Law
on House Bill 2482**

**March 15, 2021
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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 2482.

OEC works to make Oregon's transportation system more sustainable and equitable. Transportation policy affects all of us directly and indirectly, and it is not possible to address only one element of it alone. While we work to make the system safer, healthier and more efficient, we must also address how well our transportation policies enable access for all Oregonians to the services, education, jobs, and community resources we need. We must reduce barriers that make it harder for people to move around and get where they need to go.

Our vision for a transportation system is one that works for all people. Unfortunately, the current practices around police and fare enforcement aren't working. As highlighted in the testimony provide by the Multnomah County REACH program, policing disparities have created barriers for Black Portlanders in accessing important destinations. This bill reduces unnecessary contact with police while still allowing transit agencies to enforce fares and protect public safety. Reducing barriers to access is essential to continuing to make our system stronger and more equitable.

OEC urges the subcommittee to support HB 2482 for Equitable Transit Access.