

## **Senior Citizens of Sweet Home Inc. / Linn Shuttle**

**P.O. Box 803, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541-367-4775 Fax 541-367-6228**

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, committee members,

My name is Dawn Mitchell and I am the Executive Director of the Senior Citizens of Sweet Home, Inc., (SCOSHI) a private non-profit which operates the Linn Shuttle and Sweet Home Transportation. I spoke at the hearing in Albany at the Linn-Benton Community College.

I appreciate the time you are spending listening to folks like myself.

Being a small non-profit, STIF has been wonderful in allowing us to expand our frequency and later operating hours, giving options to riders for greater work hours, students to take night classes, Saturday shopping options, and the means to get back to Lebanon and Sweet Home after medical appointments at the bigger facilities in Albany and with transfer- Corvallis. A lot of SCOSHI's riders are riders of need, not convenience. They are the unhoused, low income, disabled, and older adults that no longer drive.

With the limits of 5311, 5310 and 5339, STIF is and has been the glue to make all those programs work in tandem to keep the wheels rolling. With prices and competitive wages increasing and the drive to convert all vehicles to EV, there is going to be the need for additional resources to assist in funding those requirements.

While no one likes to mention an increase in taxes or fees, and all the work it takes to do that doesn't go unnoticed. I feel an increase in the STIF tax rate is one option to assist all PTSP's across the state to help with their funding shortfalls when it comes to the added expense of purchasing EV's ( I spoke about the 4:1 ratio), and the need to keep ahead of inflation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mitchell".

Dawn Mitchell

Executive Director

SHSC/Linn Shuttle

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