

Submitter: Michael Morrison
On Behalf Of: Rail Passengers Association
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2662

My name is Michael Morrison, I reside in Portland and am a member of the Council of Delegates of the Rail Passengers Association, a national nonprofit based in Washington, DC.

HB 2662 offers a unique opportunity to unlock the potential of an existing rail connection between the technology corridor of the west metro area and the seat of government in Salem. Currently federal infrastructure funds are becoming available and are being pursued by other states. Oregon should do so as well.

An upgraded WES corridor will not compete with the existing Amtrak Cascades trains operating from downtown Portland, but instead offer west side commuters convenient transfers to and from MAX at the Beaverton station. One important feature that should be studied is the provision of adequate bicycle capacity aboard each train, as well as full accessibility functions.