

As a council representative for Oregon, to the national rail-advocacy organization Rail Passengers Association (RPA), I am testifying in support of **HB 2692**, which requires ODOT to coordinate with Washington's Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop and fund rail passenger service throughout the Pacific Northwest region.

Although expanding passenger rail service within Oregon is laudable, connecting this rail service to surrounding states is even more so. Both residents and visitors to our state frequently travel throughout both Oregon and Washington, and providing service throughout the Pacific Northwest region would bring many benefits to both states: improving and expanding intercity passenger train service, increasing connectivity among all forms of transportation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, bringing economic benefits to communities along the routes, and improving traveler safety.

I urge the legislature to move this bill forward and pass it in the 2023 session.