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Testimony on HB 2692 February 21, 2023

For the record I am Luis Moscoso, Government Affairs Director for All Aboard Washington (AAWA) and the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA) here today in support of HB 2692. I am a former Legislator in Washington state where I served as Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee and founded the Legislative Rail Caucus in 2013.

My transportation background was over 20 years in a county transit system north of Seattle where I didn't know much more than commuter service to Seattle. I became aware of the benefits of intercity passenger rail after joining the transportation committee in 2011. I was surprised that very little had been done to fulfill the promise of statewide intercity passenger rail proposed decades earlier in statute.

Looking to address this problem I met Rep. Nathanson 10 years ago after I had started the Washington Legislative Rail Caucus 10 years.. We talked about the need for better coordination between our two DOTs very similar to what you see in HB 2692 today. More than ever, it's important that both Oregon and Washington collaborate closely on intercity passenger rail. Along the Cascades Corridor to be sure. But we also need a vision to provide statewide service to both eastern Oregon and Washington.

Long distance interstate passenger rail planning for the Pioneer line through Oregon and the North Coast Hiawatha through Washington necessitates increased coordination between our DOTs to maximize the restoration of those corridors now being studied by the Federal Railroad Administration. Those corridors, when connected to the Amtrak Cascades Corridor will realize a vision for intra and interstate passenger rail transportation like we had decades ago.

Efficient and effective *high performance rail* requires more than just taking passengers across the Oregon-Washington state line at the Columbia River. Our DOTs must embrace a broader and more dynamic vision of interstate service with funding now available by the Federal Government. HB 2692 will initiate this effort between OR and WA DOTs. Thank you.

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