

Testimony in support of HB 2692
Joint Legislative Transportation Committee, February 28, 2023

My name is Jon Nuxoll. I am a past president of the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA). I am also a resident of Eugene and constituent of Rep. Nathanson.

AORTA endorses HB 2692. An interstate rail commission is a vehicle for coordinating regional passenger rail as well as one more likely to draw federal support from the recent infrastructure bill.

Similar rail commissions have been in place for many years, notably the Southern Rail Commission with membership from Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, and the Northeast Rail Commission which operates Nor'easter rail service from Portland (Maine) to Boston.

AORTA recommends that Idaho be included along with Washington and British Columbia in this bill. There is active support in Idaho for extending passenger-rail service from Oregon (the subject of SB14) and including it would give ODOT further impetus to work towards east-west service. There is an even more active movement in Montana.

It's great to see this legislation and I strongly urge your support.

Jon Nuxoll / 1500 Norkenzie Road Apt 64/ Eugene, Oregon 97401