

Submitter: Shane Alderson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB4109

Joint Committee on Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301  
Thursday, February 8th, 2024  
Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain,

As the Chair of the Baker County Board of Commissioners I would like to give my support for HB 4109 and the Proposed amendment to consider the reinstatement of the Amtrak Pioneer Line.

Much of rural America is underserved by passenger rail and Eastern Oregon is no different.

At the time Amtrak service was discontinued Greyhound operated 4 inner city buses daily along Interstate 84 through Eastern Oregon but now only one remains.

Hazardous weather can prohibit travel and close Interstate 84 in Eastern Oregon for extended periods. Our vulnerable populations require specialized medical care year-round. These services continue to be more available in larger metro areas requiring additional transportation access from more rural areas.

The population of Boise ID metro area has increased by over 60% and the Portland OR metro area has increased by over 30% since the discontinuance of Amtrak service between the two cities in 1997. The restoration of passenger rail service would further tourism and the economy of communities in Portland OR, Boise ID and all the communities in between.

Sincerely  
Shane M Alderson  
Baker County Commission Chair