

Submitter: Brandon Crawford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3453

Hello,

I'd like to testify in support of 3453. The Willamette Valley has significant needs for passenger rail service (beyond Amtrak) to connect the state's largest cities and metro regions. This region and the state would greatly benefit from a more environmentally responsible mode of transportation and greater transportation options between Portland, Salem, and Eugene. Thousands of people routinely commute between these cities, and passenger rail will help reduce congestion along I-5, improve air quality, stimulate economic opportunities near station areas, and improve overall regional mobility.

Copied below are the talking points provided by 1,000 Friends of Oregon:

YES to establishing a Westside Express Service (WES) Authority to advance the development and operations of commuter rail in the Willamette Valley.

YES to simplifying travel between the Portland metro area, Salem, and Eugene, better connecting Oregon's two largest populations to the state capital.

YES to addressing congestion along the I-5 corridor in the Willamette Valley and helping Oregon reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brandon Crawford