

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I found out about HB3453 via social media, and I'm writing to express my support for the bill.

I think Oregon will benefit from an authority whose responsibility is managing WES and studying the further development and extension of heavy passenger rail to Salem and Eugene. While this bill is explicitly aimed at those goals, my hope is that there will also be studies for increasing the frequency of WES on its current route. There could also be additional studies for extensions toward Banks, Oregon City, Hood River, and perhaps even Vancouver, utilizing rail from other shortlines and the Class 1 railroads.

In the 2020's and going forward, we need safe, reliable alternatives to car-centric transit. It's more equitable, produces less pollution per commuter, helps with traffic, and much more relaxing than sitting behind the wheel on the road again.

Thank you for your service to the State of Oregon!  
Colin Kuskie