

Submitter: Jordyn White

On Behalf of:

Committee: Joint committee on Transportation

Measure, Appointment, or Topic: HB3453

Dear Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Starr, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am an Oregonian from Salem, Oregon who supports HB 3453. This bill will positively affect anyone traveling between the Portland metro area and Salem (and eventually, Eugene). This bill will increase regional transportation options and accessibility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse-gas emissions from intercity travel in the Willamette Valley.

HB 3453 would increase access to opportunities for the approximately 30 percent of Oregonians who can't or don't drive, a group that includes a high portion of seniors, young people, and people with disabilities. It would also help commuter congestion in the I-5 corridor by more efficiently moving people than in single-occupancy vehicles. Notably, Oregon's transportation sector is the biggest contributor to the state's greenhouse-gas emissions, which this bill would also help reduce.

This bill would be a positive step forward towards connecting our Oregon communities. As someone who has lived in rural areas, this rail will be very beneficial to giving people fair and equitable access to public transportation. This could help with giving access to necessary healthcare, bringing communities together, and providing access to recreational sites across the Willamette Valley.

This bill is a positive step towards a more connected Oregon, and helps with our contribution to carbon emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB3453, and I urge you to support HB3453!