

TO: Joint Committee on Transportation
RE: Support HB 3453
DATE: March 11th, 2025

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

My name is Ellie Kim, a sociology student attending Willamette University, and I strongly encourage the Committee to support HB 3453, which will increase regional transportation options and accessibility, and reduce congestion and greenhouse-gas emissions from intercity travel in the Willamette Valley.

The 30% of Oregonians who cannot or do not drive, including the elderly, youth, and those with disabilities, will benefit from Oregon HB 3453's expansion of WES commuter rail to Salem and Eugene, which will also reduce traffic on I-5, particularly in the city of Wilsonville. This measure would promote sustainability and stimulate economic growth by **lowering the state's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions** and creating new jobs, business opportunities, and housing that is close to transportation hubs. In addition, it offers Oregon Capitol staff and legislatures a dependable and affordable way to commute without worrying about carpools and paying for parking. This would also be a great advantage for rural communities to connect with necessary services like healthcare to more urban locations. These are just a few reasons why HB 3453 would create a more connected and ecologically conscious Oregon.

It's not only exciting to hear that HB 3452 has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which would address my concerns about Oregon's climate future, but save thousands of dollars annually that would be otherwise used on single-occupancy vehicles. Accessibility to transportation should be a **fundamental human right**, while also focusing on the future for younger generations like myself. In addition to making my own travel easier and easy to access, a more robust train system would reduce traffic that impacts my community and daily life. HB 3453 advances Oregon's transition to a cleaner, more interconnected future by boosting the effectiveness of capacity of our transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I urge you to support HB 3453 to create a more sustainable, accessible, and efficient transportation future for Oregon.

Regards,

Ellie Kim