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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1202

With the price of gasoline soaring and the environmental impacts of cars more and more apparent now more than ever do we need to, as a state, focus more on building out reliable and wide spread public transit, and if Oregon is to accomplish that we'll need an agency focused on that task. Public transit in Oregon has long stagnated while other states and cities such as Seattle have made great pushes for large public transit projects that serve the people. I believe if Oregon really wants to commit itself to protecting the environment we all love and cherish then we need to follow suit. More rail investment would also lead to economic benefits for those that can't afford to own a car or to afford gas to drive long distances, allowing the state to be more connected and for more Oregonians to both get to work and commute easier as well as visit and travel to places they may never have been able to visit before. Whether it be through rail improvements or high speed rail within the region to destinations like Seattle or commuter rail between major cities rail is a clear area where more investment is needed, and by having a dedicated department focused on championing and leading forward these kinds of projects we would bring Oregon closer to being a more sustainable and fair state with public transit that serves all.