

Submitter: Rich Peppers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1543

My name is Rich Peppers, I live in the Montavilla Neighborhood of Portland, and I am a member of the Transportation Committee of the volunteer-based and -run Mobilizing Climate Action Together (or MCAT). I appreciate all your work and service on this Committee and on transportation issues in general, and encourage you to support SB 1543 - Guardrails for Good Governance.

SB 1543, together with its companion bill, SB 1542, will increase oversight and transparency within the statewide transportation system. The focus in SB 1543 is on representation on the Oregon Transportation Commission (though I understand amendments to this part of the bill - which I support - are coming); and on the establishment of a debt management policy by the OTC. Having state legislators present - from multiple parties and as non-voting members - connects OTC considerations to broader perspectives. And with ODOT increasingly using debt financing to fund transportation projects, it makes sense to have its oversight body, with public input, develop a policy that weighs the pros and cons of acquiring ever more loans and heavier debt servicing obligations, and set sensible limits.

For these reasons and more, I again urge your support of SB 1543. Thank you for your consideration.