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March 30, 2015

Oregon Senate
Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court St. NE,
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Joint Resolution 16. The Bicycle Transportation Alliance is dedicated to making bicycling safe convenient and accessible for everyone and we support this resolution.

Thank you for hosting a public hearing on this important proposal. As everyone in this room likely knows, Oregon's gas tax and vehicle administration fees, known collectively as the Highway Trust Fund, are constitutionally restricted to fund transportation projects in the road right-of-way. As one of the primary sources of funding for transportation in Oregon our Highway Trust Fund suffers a severe limitation.

Our primary source of transportation funding cannot be used to pay bus drivers, build new bicycle and pedestrian trails, improve transit service, or build the infrastructure that provides people with options for how they get around. This means we are over-investing in roads and, unsurprisingly, Oregonians are overwhelmingly limited to using private automobiles to meet daily transportation needs.

SJR16 would provide an opportunity for Oregon voters to make a decision about their priorities for the future of transportation in our state. At the Bicycle Transportation Alliance we support this bill because we think the Oregonians deserve more choices and how they get around. Whether funding bicycle and pedestrian trails or transit operations or increased frequency and reliability of intercity rail service, each and all of those options need to receive increased amounts of funding in order to be viable.

We urge you to please vote yes on SJR 16 and help chart a new path and help build a 21st Century Transportation system.

Sincerely,



Gerik Kransky
Advocacy Director

