



February 27, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy  
Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 431  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745 – Transit Funding

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to explain why the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system, is important to citizens of Central Oregon.

Commute Options has been supportive of public transportation in Central Oregon for over 20 years. We see the need every day for our community members to have convenient access to riding the bus – to work, play, shop, medical and many other trips. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) is requesting that the House Committee on Transportation support HB 2745. This will lead to Central Oregon communities being able to choose bus service that meets their needs.

A clarification to ORS 190 offers a number of benefits to our Central Oregon Communities. It gives them local control -- each city can choose the appropriate level of service, funding amount, and tool for funding transit in their community. It maximizes efficiency, by retaining regional management for the transit system, minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service. It drives economic development, helping local companies attract workers by giving employees a public transportation option that saves time and money. Some communities may choose to ask voters to support funding initiatives, and other communities may not be ready any time soon. Giving Central Oregon communities the option to seek transit funding from voters is important to our region.

We encourage the House Transportation Committee to move HB 2745 forward, and support its passage in this session. Thank you for giving local control of future transit initiatives into the hands of Central Oregon voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Monson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Monson  
Executive Director  
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