



January 30, 2017

**BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS
2016

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

**Linda
Stephenson,
President**

RE: Support for HB 2745—Transit Funding

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

**Rex Lesueur,
Vice President**

The La Pine Chamber of Commerce joins with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council in asking the Oregon Legislature to give COIC the authority to ask voters for local option levies in communities where the local government is interested in developing dedicated transit funding for bus service.

**Tiffany Zeiler
Treasurer**

The legislation we support would accomplish the following goals:

**Kim Hafermalz,
Secretary**

- Before any dedicated local transit funding is created, it would be supported by the local government and the voters.

Mary Thorson

- Different communities can propose different rates to tailor the local investment and service level to the community's needs and priorities. Each City can choose the appropriate funding tools for transit, including but not limited to property taxes.

Mark O'Connell

Woody Jarrell

- Retaining a coordinated transit system under the existing organization, thus preventing fragmented transit districts from forming, thereby minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined and convenient service.

Gary Gordon

Robin Mirrasoul

**Executive
Director
Ann Gawith**

- It would retain the most efficient management system for a regional transit system that will use federal and state resources equitably and protect local agencies from competing for limited federal and state resources.

**Executive Assistant
Assistant
Teri Myers**

- It protects local government's property tax-funded projects from funding conflicts. Local jurisdictions can decide when it is the right time to ask voters for transit funding, so it does not conflict with funding needs for higher-prioritized services.

- It allows municipalities to focus on core services and tailor transit specifically to each community's needs.

The La Pine Chamber of Commerce recognizes that our community transit needs may be different than in a larger metropolitan area. The proposed legislation enables local funds raised for transit services to actually remain in place to serve the local transit needs that the local voters approve. It just makes good sense.

Sincerely,