



April 3, 2017

Oregon League of Conservation Voters Testimony on HB 3246

Representative Paul Holvey and the House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and our supporters across the state, I ask you to support House Bill 3246. OLCV leads the fight to protect the environment in the state legislature by coordinating a statewide coalition of environmental groups that promotes environmental protection in the Legislature.

HB 3246 would bring ridesharing services to all Oregonians. Today, only residents of the Portland metro can choose ridesharing for their daily transportation needs. HB 3246 brings Oregon up to speed with 39 other states across the nation that have created statewide laws around ridesharing.

We believe HB 3246 will be a helpful tool as the legislature contemplates a comprehensive transportation package this session. OLCV will support a transportation package that is multimodal and includes robust transit funding. OLCV supports HB 3245 because ridesharing is one of many modern transportation options – along with biking, walking, and public transit – that enable Oregonians to live without personal vehicles. We hope that ridesharing opens the doors to these alternative transportation methods that ultimately leads our state to have fewer cars on the road.

Fewer cars on the road means less climate-changing pollution and healthier, more breathable air. In fact, research has shown that car-sharing services can reduce traffic congestion by up to 75%.¹

We are also eager to work with the legislature on a per-trip surcharge fee to fund environmentally-friendly transit options. This sustainability fee will increase our ability to invest in electric vehicle infrastructure, fund transit, and invest in alternative transportation like bicycling and walking. Without dedicated funding, such as this bill authorizes, it is proving difficult to fund these vital needs.

For these reasons, OLCV supports HB 3246.

Sincerely,
Paige Spence

¹ https://www.csail.mit.edu/ridesharing_reduces_traffic_300_percent

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