



June 7, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the nearly 850 City of Portland employees represented by the Professional and Technical Employees Local 17, I write today to thank you for your work on crafting a strong vision for the future of Oregon's transportation infrastructure.

Our members on the engineering staff at the Portland Bureau of Transportation have been on the front lines of the fight to reach demanding transportation goals with dwindling budgets for years. For them, increased funding for projects, maintenance, and safety improvements comes as a welcome relief. Our engineers and technical staff work tirelessly to deliver projects to the public at the lowest possible cost, and providing them the tools, funding, and flexibility for this task is critical.

PTE Local 17 shares the concerns of the Oregon AFL-CIO regarding the employee payroll tax component of this bill. We believe that the responsibility for funding Oregon's infrastructure rests on each of us, and that employers should share in this burden as well.

Lastly, PTE Local 17 would like to note that while transportation infrastructure is one of the largest and most critical components of the public services provided by the State and local governments, there are many other vital services that are underfunded throughout Oregon. We believe that it is necessary for the legislature to address both transportation funding and larger questions of revenue during this session, and we hope that HB 2017 will fit into a larger picture of how we reach a stronger future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Elliot Levin
Research Director and Legislative Advocate
Professional and Technical Employees Local 17

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