



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

*“The Engineers”*

**Testimony on HB 2017 to the  
Joint Committee Transportation Preservation and Modernization, June 5, 2017**

Good evening co-chairs Sen. Beyer and Rep. McKeown, I am Karen Tatman, a practicing engineer with Quincy Engineering based in Salem. Quincy is a firm that specializes in highway projects and we are active with the Oregon Department of Transportation on a regular basis. In addition, I am the current president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon, a professional organization that represents 115 engineering companies of all types and sizes with 3,500 employees across Oregon. I am honored and pleased to have this opportunity to add ACEC’s strong support for the many facets of HB 2017.

We have watched with anticipation of your year-long efforts and have appreciated the manner in which you have mirrored engineering protocol as you developed this impressive package. You sought input locally to determine needs and to appreciate the size and scope of key issues facing Oregonians; you defied convention by looking at new and innovative funding mechanisms to create the cash flow needed to actually find solutions; and you will look at innovative ways to deliver the projects. Your work has been impressive and we applaud you.

We thank you for bringing forward a bold, long-term transportation package. Sustainable funding has been sorely needed. We’ve reviewed the bill draft and it will create all types of projects and improvements statewide. The bill identifies changes in structure and governance to both the OTC and ODOT. ACEC has met with several of you in person to discuss our recommendations on agency improvements. We look forward to further discussions going forward.

ACEC Oregon and the engineering consultant community stand ready and able to help deliver the projects that will result from this funding package.

Please consider us as an asset and partner to ODOT and to all local governments as we bring our expertise to ensure these projects are delivered on-time and on-budget. While Oregon has been slow to adopt a significant package, our members will bring innovations and best practices from our firms that work on projects throughout Oregon, the region and across the nation where other states have already passed significant transportation packages and used us as an asset to deliver their challenging projects.

The public, this legislature, the Governor and local elected officials expect these funds to flow and projects to proceed.

For effective and efficient project deliver, we need good agency owners, including ODOT and local governments. During all phases of project delivery (planning, design, construction), we need competent public agency staff to scope and manage these projects.

ACEC Oregon has a longstanding relationship with ODOT through committees that tackle procurement, project delivery methods and policies, and innovations. We meet regularly and our personnel are often trained alongside ODOT staff. Further, over this past year, we have found much common ground on this transportation package with AEE, the union that represents ODOT’s technical engineering staff. The consultant community is truly a partner in project delivery.

We will continue to strongly support local agencies and ODOT in their owner role. We need ODOT to be as strong and well-trained as possible to support on-time and on-budget delivery.

We are here to do our role and to help find solutions to Oregon’s transportation problems.

Thank you all for your leadership on this important issue.

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*Member of the American Council of Engineering Companies, Washington, D.C.*