



March 31, 2017

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Senator Johnson, Representative Gomberg, and Committee Members,

This letter is in support of transportation options as part of a sound, well-balanced transportation package.

The Bend Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 1300 businesses and 27,000 employees in Bend. We support the continued funding of Oregon's Transportation Options (TO) programs. Transportation options and the high use of multi-modal transportation is vitality to our businesses and the livability of our community.

Transportation Options enhance economic vitality by supporting job creation and retention, decreasing household spending on transportation, supporting vibrant local businesses, and helping goods move reliably. For our business members, these options also help alleviate congestion and commute times.

With a growing population and economy, expanded transportation options are needed in Bend particularly during periods of peak travel to maintain competitive commute times, retain and attract businesses, and support efficient movement of goods.

Bend relies on transportation options to allow employers to recruit and retain the best talent, reduce payroll taxes, and reserve valuable parking spaces for clients and customers.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce