



CHIP SHIELDS
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 22
N NE PORTLAND
OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

May 24, 2013

TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Support for *ConnectOregon*

Dear Colleagues:

I write to you in support of *ConnectOregon*. One of the projects in my district was Tarr LLC during the *ConnectOregon* IV process. I was able to work with them to a successful solution.

Funding Tarr LLC's request is helping to ease the financing burden of creating a new rail/track facility at their north Portland location. Tarr purchases chemical products from refiners and manufacturers located in the eastern part of the United States, and then makes them available to key regional manufacturers in and around the Portland area. Their current facility in north Portland does not have access to rail service. Consequently, the company's operations are dependent on receiving rail cars at an off-site facility five miles from their business. This results in multiple handlings of products before they reach customers, excessive operating expenses, and constraints on the company's continued growth.

Additionally, the inability to utilize rail creates as many as 1,000 unnecessary hazardous material shipments per year on congested public roads and highways. The planned facility will accommodate rail deliveries directly into tanks, eliminating these more than 1,000 transfer shipments.

Tarr LLC is a third-generation family-owned business. *ConnectOregon* funding helped them to expand and keep their headquarters in Oregon. As a legislator, I support the ability of *ConnectOregon* to help small private business with multi-modal infrastructure challenges.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the *ConnectOregon* program.

Sincerely,

State Senator Chip Shields
Oregon Senate District 22