

Dear Potential ORULE Member:

The Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE) invites you to join our membership. Regardless of whether members represent private or public rail interests, we all share a desire to promote rail transportation, economic development and the public and private investment needed to sustain and improve the freight and passenger rail network. That's why ORULE was established: to advocate for railroads big and small, and for rail users, customers and organizations so important to the growth of the Oregon economy. Your voice is important to Oregon's transportation future, and we welcome your participation.

Since its founding in 2005 by a group of concerned businesses, local governments and transportation groups working for more non-highway investment, ORULE has proven to be a strong voice within the transportation chorus. The organization, with active help from membership, board and staff, has lobbied successfully for non-highway transportation funding in Oregon's legislative sessions, devoted to projects identified through the state's ConnectOregon program.

ORULE will continue to lobby for another round of projects to improve rail infrastructure, and we will also be involved in the larger discussions of additional funding for rail transportation in Oregon. As always, our goals are to support projects that create jobs and are of economic benefit to the state, improve links between transportation modes, and emphasize improved efficiency and speed at competitive prices. We are interested in ensuring that rail is affordable and reliable, and in retaining capacity and velocity.

Your membership will ensure your voice in an organization of growing influence. Many companies and agencies are active in ORULE, including Portland & Western Railroad; Teevin Bros.; Port of Portland; Tarr, LLC; AORTA; TriMet; Union Pacific Railroad; BNSF Railway; Amtrak, and others. Oregon Dept. of Transportation representatives regularly attend, and legislative leaders - plus an array of consultants and experts - are frequent visitors and presenters.

An application and dues schedule are attached to this email. Our bylaws encourage participation by companies and organizations of all types and sizes. Dues should be paid before March 1 of the year for which you are applying (most members pay in December or January). A portion of the ORULE annual dues are estimated to be attributable to lobbying and political expenditures (ask for percentage as it varies by year). Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, this is non-deductible as a business expense for federal income tax purposes. Please contact your tax advisor for more information.

We look forward to your presence and participation in the coming year. Please contact Lana Butterfield, Executive Director, for more information at lanab@teleport.com or call 503/682-3839.

Sincerely,



Johan Hellman, President
Oregon Rail Users' League (ORULE)