



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 24, 2013

To: Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: Support for *ConnectOregon*

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

ConnectOregon funds have been indispensable to many transportation infrastructure projects in House District 31. They have been a foundation for economic expansion involving rail, marine and land based transportation services. Included in these projects are:

- Improved rail access to Port Westward, a prime deep-water port in Columbia County
- Columbia River Rail Corridor upgrades allowing improved rail speeds and tonnage
- Construction of the Columbia County Public Transit Facility providing fixed service transportation for both senior citizens and the general public
- Pier upgrades in Rainier leading to the first direct marine cargo service to Hawaii opening markets for Oregon produced wood and steel products

These are but a few of the projects in my district that have contributed directly to both the growth and retention of jobs in a rural economic environment that makes each family wage job highly prized.

These funds are targeted and their results are measurable, a desirable objective of any public/private partnership. I strongly recommend continued funding of *ConnectOregon* – it is one of the best programs Oregon can offer our struggling business community.

Sincerely,

Brad Witt
Representative District 31