



Senator Chris Gorsek
900 Court Street NE, S-403
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Susan McLain
900 Court Street NE, H-493
Salem, OR 97301

April 14, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain,

As the 2023 legislative session hits the midway point, we feel the need to make a very **specific request of the Joint Committee on Transportation.**

Westside Economic Alliance represents hundreds of employers and thousands of employees that work, live and play across our region. Getting freight to market, employees to worksites and families to schools reflect just some of the transportation needs of our members, and our communities. We understand that the legislature directed the Oregon Department of Transportation to look at financing tools, including tolling, to fund our needed transportation infrastructure. We support the effort to continue to identify financing tools that can help share the cost burden of these projects.

Over the past several weeks, the concerns voiced have increased from a few lone individuals to a regional call for action, as you know from the recent letter submitted by several local jurisdictions, many of whom are members of WEA. And so, we are asking you to take the time to hear directly from your constituents on this matter.

We would like to offer to host you and your committee here on the Westside in the first half of May and allow for a full public hearing on tolling. We are happy to work with your staff to make arrangements that would allow this to meet all of the public meeting laws for an ‘in district’ meeting.

We believe that having the opportunity to speak directly to the legislators who directed the development of this program will help ensure our region is being heard at this critical juncture. Westside Economic Alliance works hard to provide a venue for collaborative policy making – and a critical piece of that is taking time to hear from all perspectives on any given topic.

We encourage you and your members to take us up on our offer and hope to help host an engaging and informative public meeting.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mazzara Myers, Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

10220 SW Nimbus Ave, Suite K-12
Tigard, Oregon 97223
Office 503-968-3100
www.WestsideAlliance.org

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