

W. G. A.



## Lane County Board of Commissioners

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Bill Dwyer  
Bill Fleenor  
Rob Handy  
Peter Sorenson  
Faye Hills Stewart

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

April 23, 2009  
WD bc/ps/09083/T

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Fourth District of Oregon  
United States House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Surface Transportation Authorization High Priority Project Request:  
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay – Coos Bay Rail Line

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

**The Lane County Board of Commissioners is submitting this letter in support of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay's request for federal funding through the pending Authorization of Surface Transportation legislation. Lane County supported the Port's effort to gain ownership of the rail line from Eugene to the Coos County area following the service embargo initiated in September 2007, and believes that restoring freight rail service to the western Lane, western Douglas and Coos Counties region of southwest Oregon is critical to maintaining a viable and productive regional economy.**

**Freight rail service is necessary for retaining existing jobs and attracting new industry to this region. In order for the Port, Lane County communities or any entity involved in economic development to attract new industry, rail service must be a competitive transportation option, and the Coos Bay rail line is a vital connection to the national rail system. Use of federal funds for this project is appropriate in support of the Oregon and U.S. intermodal transportation system. Restoration of rail service also moves many commodities off county, state and federal highways, thereby creating safer conditions for system users and decreasing impacts to the roadway system.**

**As a public agency, the Port is required to comply with public meeting laws. Their regularly scheduled commission meetings provide ample opportunity for the public to comment on this project. Additionally, special informational meetings may be held to discuss the ongoing restoration efforts on the Coos Bay rail line as work continues.**

**The Port was been successful in leveraging creative partnerships to acquire the rail line and begin the restoration efforts, and Lane County officials understand that the Port is working with a variety of public and private sector partners to secure the non-federal cost share required for utilization of federal transportation funds.**

Page 2 – Letter re: Domestic Violence  
WD bc/bg/04004/T

For these reasons and more, **Lane County supports the Port's High Priority Project request for the Coos Bay rail line.** The Board of Commissioners hopes that you and your colleagues look favorably on this request for federal funding assistance to support the transportation needs of southwest Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Sorenson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pete Sorenson, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners