

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

May 03, 1999 Hearing Room D

8:30 a.m. Tapes 91 - 92

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice-Chair

Rep. Richard Devlin

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Jeff Kropf

Rep. Jerry Krummel

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Jackie Taylor

Rep. Vicki Walker

Rep. Larry Wells

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Brad Daniels, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SJM 4 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 351 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 352 Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments

TAPE 91, A

004

Rep. Walker

Opens the meeting at 8:40 a.m. Opens the public hearing on SJM 4.

SJM 4 PUBLIC HEARING

007

Robert Lowry

Supports SJM 4. Notes the importance of the *Pioneer* train to business and during winter. States that there is a need and interest in using the *Pioneer*. Discusses the current western rail corridors and the importance of the *Pioneer* in connecting these two corridors (**EXHIBIT A**).

063

Rep. Wells

Asks if the committee should provide more detailed direction to Congress.

075

Lowry

Responds that Amtrak would not start the service without being able to sustain it economically.

081

Rep. Wells

Questions if they should ask Congress to do something that has unsure economic support.

086

Lowry

Replies that the service would be relatively self-sustainable.

089

Rep. Wells

Asks why the service was stopped in the first place.

089

Lowry

Replies that the express service was too light. States that increased express service would allow Amtrak to break even.

103

Rep. Bob Jenson

District 57. Supports SJM 4. Underlines the social and economic importance of trains to Oregon businesses and to citizens who need to access services (**EXHIBIT B**).

147

Rep. Taylor

Comments on the pleasantness of the *Pioneer* ride.

158

Rep. Krummel

Asks why the \$3 million request by Amtrak was denied.

162

Rep. Jenson

Expresses uncertainty.

175

Claudia Howells

Rail Division, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Reviews the history of the *Pioneer* train, its elimination, and the use of the *Empire Builder* to reach Chicago (**EXHIBIT C**).

192

Rep. Lehman

Asks about the service provided by the *Empire Builder*.

193	Howells	Describes the <i>Empire Builder</i> .
200	Rep. Lehman	Asks if the <i>Pioneer</i> served Eastern Oregon as opposed to the <i>Empire Builder</i> , which serves Eastern Washington.
205	Howells	Replies yes. Discusses the level of ridership on the <i>Pioneer</i> and the lack of other states' participation in the effort to save the train. Notes the market potential of express freight. Reviews the support for rail on the part of a private businessman, Gil Carmichael, a prominent businessman and former administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.
255	Howells	Reiterates that the <i>Pioneer</i> must be part of a greater rail network.
267	Rep. Krummel	Asks if the <i>Empire Builder</i> started running in the Gorge after the <i>Pioneer</i> was dropped.
274	Howells	Describes the <i>Empire Builder</i> route.
279	Chair Montgomery	Asks if Amtrak rents the tracks.
283	Howells	Replies yes.
284	Chair Montgomery	Asks if Amtrak pays the same fees as all other railroads.
285	Howells	Replies that the operating fees have been re-negotiated by Amtrak.
296	Chair Montgomery	Asks if Amtrak pays the same rate as other freight railroads when using other tracks. Asks if the rate is higher or lower.
298	Howells	Replies no to the first question and lower to the second question.
307	Rep. Wells	Asks if a train originates in San Francisco and goes to Salt Lake City.
311	Howells	Replies yes.
312	Rep. Wells	Asks if there is very little support from other states on this issue.
319	Howells	Replies yes.
321	Rep. Lehman	Asks how long a passenger train takes to get to Chicago.

324	Howells	Answers that it is slightly over 3 days.
329	Chair Montgomery	Adds that it takes 50 hours from Portland to Chicago.
331	Rep. Lehman	Asks how much a ticket costs.
332	Howells	Replies that it varies.
342	David Barenberg	League of Oregon Cities (LOC). Supports SJM 4. Stresses the importance of and support for rail service to Eastern Oregon.
384	Rep. Wells	Asks if the committee should ask Congress to restore rail service when Oregon is unwilling to put money into the project.
393	Barenberg	Replies that the memorial articulates Oregon's support and interest in the issue. Concedes that currently there will be no funding for the <i>Pioneer</i> .
415	Rep. Lokan	Asks if Oregon will be expected to provide funding in the future, how much it would be and what the ridership expectations are.
TAPE 92, A		
004	Barenberg	Expresses uncertainty. States that there are a number of different plans to reduce the cost of the service and increase ridership.
011	Howells	Replies that Amtrak has not determined a dollar figure. Notes that Oregon was the only state along the route to express interest in the rail service.
025	Rep. Lokan	Expresses concern about asking Congress to do something that may have tepid local support. Expresses reluctance to support the bill.
034	Rep. Krummel	Asks if the <i>Pioneer</i> had 12,362 riders for the entire year.
035	Howells	Replies yes, the figure represents Oregon ridership
039	Rep. Taylor	Asks if the service was a seven day a week service.
040	Howells	Replies no, it was three days per week.
044	Chair Montgomery	Supports the resolution, but notes that rail service still does not extend to the smaller towns.

049	Rep. Walker	Closes the public hearing on SJM 4. Opens the work session on SJM 4.
<u>SJM 4 WORK SESSION</u>		
050	Rep. HILL:	MOTION: Moves SJM 4 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
054	Rep. Kropf	Supports the memorial as looking at alternative modes of transportation that are economically feasible. Underlines the present inefficiency of Amtrak.
075	Rep. Walker	Supports the memorial.
079		VOTE: 8-2 AYE: 8 - Devlin, Hill, Kropf, Krummel, Lehman, Taylor, Walker, Montgomery NAY: 2 - Lokan, Wells
	Rep. Walker	The motion CARRIES. KRUMMEL will lead discussion on the floor.
083	Rep. Walker	Closes the work session on SJM 4. Opens the public hearing on SB 351A.
<u>SB 351A PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
090	Kelly Taylor	Division of Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV), ODOT. Discusses the current requirements for manufactured structures on real property, the number of manufactured homes involved, and the exemption process. Explains the streamlining goal of the bill. Notes the administrative savings resulting from the streamlining. Stresses the universal support for the bill (EXHIBIT D).
133	Don Miner	Oregon Manufactured Housing Association. Supports SB 351A.
136	Rep. Lokan	Asks if the manufactured home owners support the bill.
137	Taylor	Replies that the owners will probably support the bill.
143	Rep. Lokan	Asks if they will pay reduced fees.

144	Taylor	Replies that some time-sensitive documents are purchased, but expire during the current process, which will not happen under the bill.
148	Rep. Lokan	Asks how the saving of one position affects the real savings to DMV.
150	Taylor	Replies that the reduced position is part of the budget package before Ways & Means.
154	Rep. Wells	Asks for an explanation of the steps involved currently and what steps will be eliminated.
165	Miner	Explains the process.
172	Taylor	Adds that some customers do shuttle the paperwork back and forth between agencies. Discusses the process for the consumer in these situations.
197	Rep. Wells	Asks about a person who already has property and buys a home.
201	Taylor	Replies that the loan recipients usually work with a title or escrow company.
210	Chair Montgomery	Asks about the removal of the delayed effective date. Asks if county clerks can charge different recording fees.
214	Taylor	Replies that the elimination of the date was in response to possible programming changes that will not be required. Adds that counties can charge different recording fees.
218	Chair Montgomery	Inquires if they will ask all counties to be equal.
219	Taylor	Replies that it would not be for her to propose.
225	Rep. Walker	Closes the public hearing on SB 351A. Opens the work session on SB 351A.
<u>SB 351A WORKSESSION</u>		
228	Rep. Hill	MOTION: Moves SB 351A to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 10-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.

	Rep. Walker	<p>The motion CARRIES.</p> <p>DEVLIN will lead discussion on the floor.</p>
240	Rep. Walker	Closes the work session on SB 351A. Opens the public hearing on SB 352.
<u>SB 352 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
249	Brad Daniels	Administrative Support. Explains provisions of SB 352 (EXHIBIT E).
274	Steve Johnston	Motor Carrier Division, ODOT. Reviews the provisions of SB 352, the titling and registration requirements, and the booster axle exemption. Suggests a conceptual amendment to the bill on page 3, line 14 to change "title" to "proportional registration".
335	Rep. Wells	Asks for further explanation of the bill.
343	Rep. Kropf	Asks if the Rep. Wells confusion concerns booster axles.
350	Johnston	Indicates that the safety chain protects against the vehicles becoming separated.
353	Rep. Wells	Asks if Oregon has a permanent registration for trailers.
358	Johnston	Replies yes.
361	Rep. Wells	Asks how the bill affects trailers that operate in California.
368	Johnston	Describes the registration and title requirements in Oregon and how the proposed change in California will require Oregon trailers to be titled. Indicates that the bill seeks to grandfather the exemption for existing trailers.
399	Rep. Wells	Asks why the trucks are registered in Oregon.
406	Lanny Gower	Consolidated Freight Transportation/Oregon Trucking Association. Supports SB 352. Discusses how motor carriers title their vehicles. Relates an example explaining why trailers may be titled out-of-state. States that California is the last state to require apportioned trailer registration.
TAPE 91, B		

035	Rep. Taylor	Supports the bill as promoting consistency between states' treatment of transportation.
048	Rep. Walker	Closes the public hearing on SB 352. Opens the work session on SB 352.
<u>SB 352 WORK SESSION</u>		
050	Rep. Hill	MOTION: Moves to AMEND SB 352 on page 3, in line 14, delete "title" and insert "proportional registration."
		VOTE: 10-0
Rep. Walker		Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
069	Johnston	Questions if "apportioned" would be preferable to "proportional", but notes that the conceptual amendment is acceptable as is.
080	Rep. Hill	MOTION: Moves SB 352 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
		VOTE: 10-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
Rep. Walker		The motion CARRIES. REP. LEHMAN will lead discussion on the floor.
Rep. Walker		Adjourns the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Daniels, Janet Adkins,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñSJM 4, written testimony, Robert Lowry, 1 p.

B ñSJM 4, written testimony, Rep. Bob Jenson, 1 p.

C ñSJM 4, written testimony, Claudia Howells, 2 pp.

D ñSB 351A, written testimony, Kelly Taylor, 1 p.

E ñSB 352, diagram, staff, 1 p.

F ñSB 352, written testimony, Steve Johnston, 1 p.