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## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Rep. Nancy Nathanson Testifies in Front of Congressional Subcommittee**

*Focuses on Oregon's experience with passenger rail, asks for support*

SALEM – Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene) testified in front of the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials today about Oregon's experience supporting passenger rail service and the outlook for its future in the state.

The hearing, Amtrak Now and Into the Future, featured testimony from a variety of passenger rail leaders from across the country. Rep. Nathanson spoke about Oregon's experience with Amtrak Cascades and the need for Congressional support to update infrastructure and expand service.

“Our passengers care about speed, but they care even more about reliable, on time service and more schedule options,” Rep. Nathanson said.

In testimony to committee, she said:

“Just last week I talked again with a successful high-tech business owner in Eugene who takes the train frequently to Portland where the other half of his staff are located, because he wants to use his time, not waste his time. A retired real estate broker continually presses me at chamber of commerce meetings to support more and better train options. Our young population, our seniors, our gig economy and tech ... they all see the value of passenger trains, and they want more.

“Investing dollars and time in passenger rail is smart policy, meeting multiple objectives in economy, energy, and environment. It's time to put more muscle into supporting a safe, efficient platform for Amtrak to succeed.”

Video of Rep. Nathanson's testimony can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkgA0V-GvPM&feature=youtu.be>.

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