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PRESS RELEASE

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Freight service fully restored on Coos Bay rail line

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Oregon's transportation advocates celebrate a milestone today. A Coos Bay Rail Link-CBR freight train is moving the first rail shipment of plywood out of the Roseburg Forest Products mill in Coquille since the rail line was shut-down with 24 hours notice to shippers in 2007.

That action more than five years ago was a catalyst for change. It prompted communities in the southwest Oregon region, shippers, individuals and state and federal leaders to unite to pursue public ownership and reinvestment in this vital piece of infrastructure. Today's full restoration of freight rail service on the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay's 134-mile Coos Bay rail line ensures manufacturers and other companies reliant on rail in Coos, western Douglas and western Lane counties have access to efficient and cost-competitive transportation.

"I couldn't be more thrilled with the progress that has been made on the line, and I am very optimistic for the future. Today's milestone is proof that the state's investment in this critical infrastructure is paying off," said state Rep. Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay).

Rep. McKeown served as Vice Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners for the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay from 2004-2013. She helped coordinate a nonpartisan effort to assist the Port of Coos Bay in purchasing the line in 2009-10. The port went on to raise more than \$31 million for the rail line rehabilitation project, including \$3.5 million in Oregon Lottery funds and \$7.8 million from *ConnectOregon III*.

These federal and state investments in the line have brought on-the-ground improvements to every single mile of tracks between Coquille and the rail line's connection to the nation's Class 1 freight rail system in Eugene. It also strengthened the competitive edge of Roseburg Forest Products and 10 other manufacturers and agricultural producers that support hundreds of families in the three-county region.

McKeown stated, "The success of Coos Bay Rail Link is a testament to what lawmakers and communities can accomplish when they work together to bring sustainability and prosperity to every corner of the state."

Shippers moved 2,480 rail cars of commodities on the Coos Bay rail line in 2012, and Coos Bay Rail Link expects shipments to double this year with the rail service now reaching to Coquille.

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