



PRESS RELEASE

REP. NANCY NATHANSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 13

For Immediate Release
March 26th, 2013

For More Information, Contact:
Adam Renon – 503-986-1413

House Improves Coordination of Key Passenger Rail Line in Oregon

Rep. Nathanson carries bill on the House floor

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives passed House Bill 2918 today, improving coordination in a key transportation project in the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest High Speed Rail Corridor runs 466 miles from Eugene, OR to Vancouver, BC, spanning two US states and one Canadian province. An agreement already established with the State of Washington ensures that partners will work collaboratively to develop a corridor management plan that will include governance, management, planning, funding, equipment, and performance measures.

HB 2918 permits the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to enter into agreements with Washington and British Columbian transportation departments that will increase the efficiency of planning for improvements and operation of the rail line, putting the state in a better place to compete for future federal funding.

“Rail transportation is critical to our local economies and the economic future of our state,” said Representative Nancy Nathanson (D- Eugene), “this bill works towards a vision of high speed rail in Oregon that is both necessary and prudent.”

HB 2918 also requires ODOT to report to the Legislature every two years on the status of agreements, performance of passenger rail service in the corridor, and the financial status of the corridor.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

###