



EOCA represents 14 eastern and central Oregon counties, comprising a significant majority of the land within the state's borders. Our constituents face unique challenges due to the diverse and dramatic geography of the counties we represent. Together, our respective commissioners work collaboratively to advocate on behalf of those who live, learn, and work in Eastern Oregon. We aim to shape policies that recognize the needs of our region of the state and challenges we face.

Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation,

On behalf of Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA), I am writing today to express our shared interest in the restoration of intercity passenger service between Portland, OR and the Boise, ID to Salt Lake City, UT service already requested by that region on Sept. 2 of last year. Upon passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with its investments in an enhanced national rail network, we have joined with leaders throughout the Pacific Northwest, to state our interest in restoring our legacy Pioneer line. The newly established Corridor Identification and Development Program has inspired us to connect residents to the economic, education and recreational opportunities that exist between our western cities.

Our residents lack the intercity rail service that connect metropolitan areas in other parts of the country. As our region continues to experience considerable growth in population and wealth, our residents look to its leaders to ensure there is a competitive mix of economical, safe, and reliable transportation methods to move between our communities. We feel strongly that intercity rail service between our cities will also be an essential piece of an improved conventional and high-speed rail system that will eventually connect all the West Coast states to the interior of our nation. Our cities look at the proposals to connect Vancouver BC to Portland Oregon with high-speed rail, we believe a network of improved conventional passenger rail will provide for a more reliable pipeline of customers across the system. We come together as local elected officials, state leaders, transportation stakeholders, the business community and education leaders to explore and champion this effort.

EOCA is in full support of SB14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul M. Anderes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul M. Anderes, Union County Commissioner
Eastern Oregon Counties Association Chair