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July 5, 2010

Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Lane ACT Charter

Dear Commissioners:

1000 Friends of Oregon and the below co-signers would like to express our support for adoption of a charter for Lane County's Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) that provides for solid citizen representation of environmental, land use, labor, trucking, business, education, transit, bicyclist, farming, pedestrian and similar interests. As transportation stakeholders, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in your decision under Section 1 of Senate Bill 944.

Oregon Transportation Commission policy requires that ACTs "have a voting membership which is reflective of its population and interest groups and will be broadly representative of those impacted by ACT recommendations." We believe that an ACT's voting citizen representatives are an important component of this policy objective.

We have reviewed the May 18, 2010 draft charter, and are generally in support of that proposal. However, we believe two changes should be made to Article IV, Chapter A, Section 6 to protect the ability of citizens to meaningfully participate in our new ACT.

First, we ask for the restoration of the February 10, 2010 draft's requirement that there be six voting citizen members. The original language has been changed to say "up to" six members; the level of citizen representation is no longer guaranteed. We understand that this is unlike the charters of all other ACTs in Oregon. Some have suggested that this language is necessary, in the event that fewer than six qualified citizens volunteer for the ACT. However, if this occurs, the better course of action would be to conduct further outreach to locate more qualified volunteers. It is to be expected that such outreach would be required; an advertisement in the legal notices section of the local newspaper is unlikely to attract much attention. Interest groups will need to be contacted directly and encouraged to participate, because until now, there has been little opportunity for many of these groups to be part of transportation planning.

Second, we ask for a more balanced method of selecting the citizen representatives. Under the current draft, the other 21 members of the ACT would select the citizens. On the



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surface, this may seem acceptable. However, most of these 21 members are not elected officials representing the bulk of Lane County. Ten members represent small cities, which as a group are only one-eighth of the County's population. Eight members represent narrower interests: the tribes, the Port of Siuslaw, LTD, the MPO, Lane RAC, the Highway 126 corridor, and ODOT. Only three members represent Eugene, Springfield and Lane County as a whole. It is our understanding that are no other ACTs in Oregon that appoint citizen members in the manner that is currently proposed for the Lane County ACT.


There appear to be a number of good alternatives. In the South West ACT, citizens are selected by a steering committee comprised of one county representative, one city representative, one citizen, the ODOT area manager, and two or three other ACT members. In the Rogue Valley ACT, the county commissioners prepare proposals for citizen appointments; these are then forwarded to the ACT for a final decision. In every other Oregon ACT, the county commissioners make the appointments. We would support any of these approaches to citizen representation.

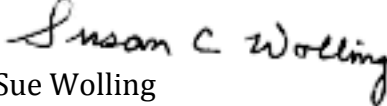
The attachment to this letter shows the currently proposed May 18 draft of Article IV, Chapter A, Section 6. It also shows the February 10 draft and the 1000 Friends of Oregon proposal submitted to you at your June 23 meeting. Either of these alternatives is preferable to the May 18 draft; the county commissioners are elected by all people in Lane County and are well placed to make these decisions.

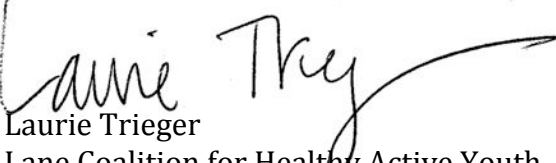
However, the exact manner in which citizens are chosen is not important, so long as the selecting body is broadly representative of the people of Lane County. As noted above, we also think there should be a guaranteed number of citizens (we recommend six), as is provided by all other ACTs in Oregon.

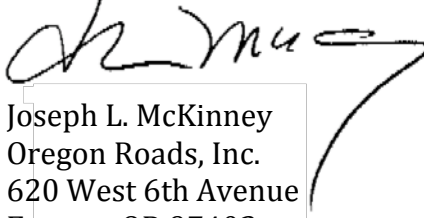
We encourage you to continue to work with other jurisdictions and stakeholders to craft an ACT charter that will indeed "have a voting membership which is reflective of its population and interest groups and will be broadly representative of those impacted by ACT recommendations."

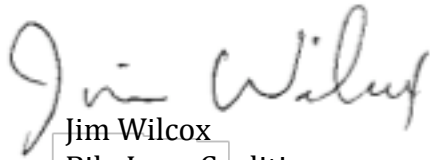
Sincerely,


Mia Nelson
1000 Friends of Oregon
220 East 11th, Suite 5
Eugene, OR 97401

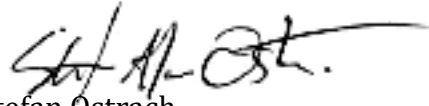

Sue Wolling
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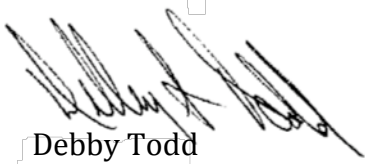

Joseph L. McKinney
Oregon Roads, Inc.
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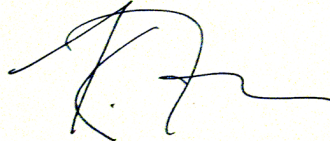
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Stefan Ostrach
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Debby Todd
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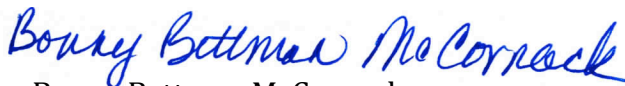
Kevin Matthews
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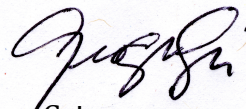
Paul Adkins
MPC Citizen's Advisory Council Member
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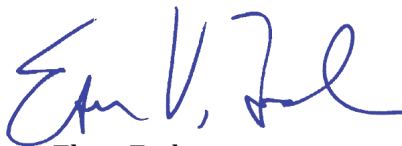
Lisa Arkin
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Eugene, OR 97440



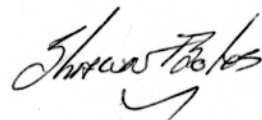
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1000 Friends of Oregon's Proposed Changes to LACT Charter

Article IV, Chapter A, Section 6

5/18/10 Candidate Final Draft LACT Bylaws

Citizens (Private Sector): Following public advertisement, LACT shall appoint up to six (6) citizens as members of LACT. The citizens should be selected to represent a diversity of interests, which may include airports, rail (passenger & freight), trucking, public transit (bus & rail) riders, bicyclists and pedestrians, business, freight, tourism, public safety, public health, schools, neighborhoods, senior citizens, special transportation needs, minorities, environment, land use, parts of Lane County not otherwise well represented on LACT, and other interests. Citizen (Private Sector) members shall reside in the Area or represent a business or organization that operates in the Area. (up to 6 members)

2/10/10 Working Draft LCAT Bylaws

Community (Private Sector): Following public advertisement, the Lane County Commissioners, in consultation with LCACT, shall appoint six (6) non-elected citizens as members of LCACT. These members should be selected to represent a diversity of interests, which may include airports, rail (passenger & freight), trucking, public transit (bus & rail) riders, bicyclists and pedestrians, business, freight, tourism, public safety and health, schools, neighborhoods, senior citizens, people with disabilities, minorities, environment, land use, areas of Lane County not otherwise well represented on LCACT, and other interests. (6 members)

1000 Friends' Proposed Changes - Clean Copy

Citizens (Private Sector): Following public advertisement, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with LACT, shall appoint six (6) non-elected citizens as members of LACT. Each County Commissioner shall select one of the six citizen members. The Board shall jointly select the sixth citizen member, and shall work together to ensure that as a group, the six appointees represent a diversity of interests, which may include airports, rail (passenger & freight), trucking, public transit (bus & rail) riders, bicyclists and pedestrians, business, freight, tourism, public safety, public health, schools, neighborhoods, senior citizens, special transportation needs, minorities, environment, land use, parts of Lane County not otherwise well represented on LACT, and other interests. Citizen (Private Sector) members shall reside in the Area or represent a business or organization that operates in the Area. (6 members)

1000 Friends' Proposed Changes - Legislative Draft

Citizens (Private Sector): Following public advertisement, LACT-the Lane County Board of Commissioners, in consultation with LACT, shall appoint ~~up to~~ six (6) non-elected citizens as members of LACT. Each County Commissioner shall select one of the six citizen members. The Board shall jointly select the sixth citizen member, and shall work together to ensure that as a group, the six appointees~~The citizens should be selected to~~ represent a diversity of interests, which may include airports, rail (passenger & freight), trucking, public transit (bus & rail) riders, bicyclists and pedestrians, business, freight, tourism, public safety, public health, schools, neighborhoods, senior citizens, special transportation needs, minorities, environment, land use, parts of Lane County not otherwise well represented on LACT, and other interests. Citizen (Private Sector) members shall reside in the Area or represent a business or organization that operates in the Area. (~~up to~~ 6 members)