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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

Re: Support LD 1632: An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan

When Listening to the Climate Council discussions I was forced to think, if only there was some solution for long distance travel that:

- could be highly efficient, needing less energy to move people and products.
- could be electrified either through batteries, use of hydrogen, or overhead distribution.
- could move people around over long distances in any weather and at the same time encourage active transportation.
- could provide transportation that allows for economic equity.
- could increase housing by decreasing the need for parking.
- could preserve 30% of open land as well as working lands and waters as required by the climate goals by decreasing the need for new roads created and continually widening roads.
- could increase community resiliency.
- could save lives by being safe.

And of course, the answer to the long-distance enigma is rail, and not more highways.

Decreasing transit pollution requires focusing on vehicle miles traveled or VMT. Avoiding induced demand by widening and expanding roads is priority one. Using the savings could instead fund frequent, fast, dependable, and affordable transit with "last-mile connections." Options for "last mile" include improved sidewalks, bike lanes, buses, taxis, or ride-sharing services to bridge from long haul transit to the end point and are all needed as the solution to decrease VMT.

Sincerely,

Peter Cole, President
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