



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **REP. HANNA, REP. MORGAN URGE FEDERAL PANEL TO REJECT COOS BAY LINE ABANDONMENT**

*Roseburg Legislators Strongly Support Port of Coos Bay's Proposed Purchase of Line*

SALEM—House Republican Leader Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and Rep. Susan Morgan (R-Roseburg) today urged the federal Surface Transportation Board to reject the proposed abandonment of Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad's Coos Bay Line. Both testified to the board along with local, state and federal leaders at a public hearing in Eugene.

"The Coos Bay Line is a critical part of Oregon's efforts to be competitive in the global economy," Rep. Hanna said. "Oregon will become less competitive if this vital transportation link is allowed to disappear. The closure of this line will directly threaten many businesses and the family wage jobs they provide to Oregonians."

While testifying to the panel in Eugene, Rep. Hanna and Rep. Morgan also urged the Board to support the sale of the Coos Bay Line to the Port of Coos Bay. The purchase would allow the Port to put the line back into operation for Southern Oregon's economy.

"The Port of Coos Bay is ready to step forward and reopen this railroad," Rep. Morgan said. "The State of Oregon has strongly signified its support of the Port's proposal and has been a key ally with the Port, our federal representatives and the shippers."

Rep. Morgan emphasized that the Coos Bay Line is critical to Southern Oregon's economy, including thousands of jobs throughout the region.

"When we consider the shippers on the line that are affected by this discussion, we are talking about 750 jobs," Rep. Morgan said. "If we use the standard multiplier that three jobs will be created in the service sector for each manufacturing job, we are considering the future of over 2,200 jobs. This is a significant portion of the jobs in that region, and it underlies the importance of operating the Coos Bay Line."

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