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**DRAFT**

Governor Kotek

<<address>>

Salem, OR <<zip>>

Governor Kotek:

The Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners urges you to submit a nomination for the vacancy on the TriMet Board of Directors to the Oregon State Senate as soon as possible. District 7, which represents the majority of Clackamas County, was vacated in November 2025 with the resignation of Kathy Wai. We are aware of two individuals who have been submitted for consideration, yet communication has been sparse, and our community has not been heard.

As you know, TriMet faces difficult choices in the coming months and years as they grapple with significant financial challenges, including a budget gap of \$245,000,000 in the current year and a looming fiscal cliff in 2029. Assuming a nominee is approved in June, the District 7 seat will have been vacant for 6 months and missed 8 Board meetings. The majority of Clackamas County residents, because of this vacancy, have had no say in important policy discussions and the decisions being made. This lack of input has direct impacts on people who depend on the TriMet system, including 71 disabled individuals who will no longer receive LIFT paratransit service after August 2026 because their residence will be outside TriMet's LIFT coverage with the implemented service cuts. These individuals will need to find alternative transportation options to remain engaged with their community and to meet their needs.

We have raised this issue to you and your staff for many months, and we remain frustrated that this vacancy was not filled during the most recent legislative session. Clackamas County residents deserve representation on the TriMet Board at this critical time. The Board of County Commissioners and local mayors recently sent a letter recommending Jeff Gudman, whose knowledge and experience would serve the TriMet Board of Directors well in these tough times. We urge your office to forward a final nomination to the State Senate.

Regards,

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