



## STATE OF OREGON

## INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Gerry Thompson

DATE: March 10, 1982

FROM: Bob Oliver *Bob*

SUBJECT: Transportation Commission

My observation is that the effectiveness of a board or commission generally is inversely proportionate to the number of its membership. On this general principle, therefore, I would oppose creation of a seven-member commission. Five members seem appropriate to represent Oregon's five congressional districts.

There is one argument in support of increasing the number which Fred Miller did not cite in his memo. Under current law, as he notes, the member from the second congressional district must be east of the Cascade Range. The second district, besides the counties in that area, embraces substantial portions of Jackson and Josephine counties. Someone could argue that those portions are barred by law from representation on the commission. On the other hand, the fourth district includes other portions of Jackson and Josephine counties, so it is not impossible for a resident of one of those counties to be a member of the commission so long as he or she lives within that district. All things considered, I do not see this as sufficient reason in itself to add more members.



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STATE OF OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INTEROFFICE MEMO  
COM

*Miller*

TO: Governor Victor Atiyeh  
254 State Capitol

DATE: January 27, 1982

RECEIVED  
JAN 29 1982  
Governor's Office

FROM: Fred D. Miller *Fred*  
Director

JAN 30 1982  
Governor Atiyeh

SUBJECT: Change in Transportation Commission Composition

*300 -  
your  
comments  
please!  
Darryl*

Tony and I discussed a possible proposal to create a seven-member Transportation Commission. He asked me to send you a memo containing our views on this change.

Background: Under current Oregon law, the Transportation Commission is composed of five members. Four are selected from each congressional district, and the fifth member is chosen at large. The member from the second congressional district must be east of the Cascade Range. No more than three may be from the same political party. The Governor appoints the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. With the advent of a fifth congressional district for Oregon, ORS 184.612(1) must now be amended.

Recommendation: One member should be selected from each of Oregon's five congressional districts, abolishing the at-large position. The Governor should continue to appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Arguments in support:

- (1) Representation by congressional district has, over the years, proven to be a workable formula, assuring each area of the state that it has a "voice" on the Commission. The at-large member was adopted to provide a "tie-breaking" member. Now, with five congressional districts, the at-large member is no longer required.
- (2) Five members, over the years, has proven to be a very valuable number to handle the necessary business of the Commission, and to provide balanced direction. A larger Commission could easily become unwieldy.
- (3) Two at-large members would inevitably "stack" at least two of the congressional districts and give rise to complaints of over-representation--a charge not infrequently voiced now with three members being from the Portland area.
- (4) There is no logical rationale for seven members, as there is for five.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further if you are interested in doing so.

cc Tony Yturri