

Submitter: Sarah Deumling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2137

January 29, 2023
Joint Committee on Transportation
Re: HB 2137

Many years, many hours and a lot of money have been spent on the question of another bridge for our area. Former proposals have been soundly rejected for a number of reasons such as (but not limited to) 1) Vanishingly little if any public money to pay for NEW road construction, preference wisely being given to maintaining what we have. 2) Vanishingly few local residents who are willing to be taxed for something that is far from the top of lists of important issues to be tackled, and 3) the cost to existing farmland, ecosystems, parks, businesses and homes would be far greater than any gain would be.

Furthermore, from the global to the most local levels (Salem's own Climate Action Plan) we are trying to reduce GHG emissions in the hope of keeping our forests, farms, oceans, parks and open spaces intact and functional enough to maintain our Oregon economy and quality of life for generations to come. The biggest contributor to GHG emissions is transportation/driving. More automobile infrastructure means more driving/more GHGs and before long more congestion. We can come up with better, more promisingly sustainable solutions.

As a 4th, 5th and 6th generation family with a residence in West Salem and a forest and wood products business in Polk County we use the existing bridges a LOT. The problem of congestion is noticeably better than it was 5 or 10 years ago. I implore you to place yourselves on the right side of history and to reject wasting any more time, money and energy of this foolish proposal.