

Submitter: Kathy Lincoln

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2781

I am writing to OPPOSE HB 2781. The bill would create another layer of government. The counties included in the proposed bridge district already do extensive transportation planning, as required by the Transportation Planning Rule. Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties also coordinate their transportation priorities through the Mid Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation. The current Salem Transportation Plan does not indicate the need or desire for another Willamette River Bridge. Instead, that plan and the Salem Keizer Area Transportation System Policy Plan encourage investment in more transit, walking and biking routes and carpools rather than constructing new facilities that we cannot afford. It is well documented that building more roads and highway infrastructure encourages MORE traffic. A new bridge and related roads would be contrary to our efforts to reduce traffic and the related emissions and pollution. In addition, the state and local municipalities do not have the funds necessary to maintain the bridges that we already have. There is a backlog of bridges in this area that are in need of repair and maintenance. It makes no sense to try to raise a half billion dollars or more for another bridge when we can't maintain those we have. For these reasons HB 2781 is a bad idea.