



Soraida Cross, General Manager

Phoenix Inn & Suites Salem, OR

February 2, 2023

RE: Support of HB 2137

Dear Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Gorsek and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation.

My Name is Soraida Cross and I am writing you this letter as the General Manager of the Phoenix Inn & Suites. I have worked in the hospitality industry in Salem for the last 30 years with the past 18 years having worked for VIPS Industries.

I am writing to you in support of HB 2137 regarding the Establishment of a Task Force for the Willamette River Bridge.

I work in Downtown Salem and rush hour traffic creates danger when an emergency occurs on the bridge, so one of the two bridges is blocked. This restricts emergency vehicle's ability to get across and slows emergency response times.

The Oregon Department of Transportation will be proceeding with the modernization of the Brooks Interchange; this is a perfect time to run traffic to and from that interchange over an additional bridge to avoid the congestion of the interchanges to the south.

This specific bill creates a task force with a tight timeline to make recommendations as to the future of such a bridge. It is not a commitment to build a bridge, but it is recognition that this is a serious issue which requires prompt consideration.

We have the opportunity to receive strong federal support for these types of building projects right now.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the city of Salem and to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Soraida Cross

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