

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

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

My name is Sarah and I am a resident of Dallas, Oregon. I commute through West Salem into Downtown Salem on a daily basis and have to deal with traffic and delays that come with it. Additionally, I have two young kids who attend daycare in downtown Salem.

I am here today in support of HB 2137 regarding the Establishment of a Task Force for the Willamette River Bridge. As a commuter and parent, I know first-hand the struggles of navigating the congested roads during rush hour. It not only adds time and stress to my daily routine, but also creates a dangerous situation in case of an emergency on the bridge.

The proposed bridge will not only ease the traffic congestion and make commuting a smoother experience, but it will also provide quicker access for emergency vehicles, which is of utmost importance. Additionally, the ability to cross the river more efficiently will also be a huge benefit for farmers and small business owners in the area, allowing them to transport goods and supplies with ease.

I also appreciate that this bill creates a balanced task force with equal representation from Marion and Polk Counties, along with non-voting legislative representation, ensuring a thorough and well-informed decision making process. The tight timeline for recommendations is crucial, as we have the opportunity for strong federal support right now and we must move quickly to take advantage of it.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a task force to study the potential construction of a third bridge across the Willamette River. It will bring numerous positive effects to the community, including ease of transportation, improved emergency response times and supporting local businesses.

I hope that the committee will also see the importance of this issue and take prompt action.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Sarah from Dallas, Oregon.