

Submitter: Derek Gilbert  
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 Derek Gilbert and I am a partner in a wealth management business in downtown Salem and am also a volunteer firefighter with Marion County overseeing the volunteer operations of our Wheatland Road station north of Keizer. I support HB 2137 for the following reasons:

- 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.

- 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.

- I live, work and volunteer in the Salem/Keizer area and there is a tremendous backlog of traffic on the existing bridges during rush hour.

I believe this is not a Salem project, nor is it a Keizer project. An additional bridge is needed to provide through traffic from I-5 to highway 22 and even on to the coast without having to deal with local traffic in the City of Salem. 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 a recognition that this is a serious issue which requires prompt consideration.

Thank you for taking my testimony!

Derek