



P.O. Box 1083  
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Helping to shape the use of our natural resources to protect the quality of life in Yamhill County

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February 3, 2023

Co-Chairs Sen. Gorsek and Rep. McLain  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 2137

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Friends of Yamhill County (FYC) works to protect natural resources through the implementation of land use planning goals, policies, and laws that maintain and improve the present and future quality of life in Yamhill County for both urban and rural residents. The prospect of inefficient modes of transportation paving over more of some of the most productive resource land in Oregon's second largest economic sector is an ongoing concern.

FYC opposes HB 2137 which would establish in Willamette River Bridge Task Force. There is no need for an additional layer of transportation study and strategic planning focused exclusively on a bridge. The State, counties and cities already have roles in coordination transportation planning.

The very idea of a third bridge has been rejected by local authorities. The data presented by proponents dates from 2015 and does not reflect changes in workplaces learned in dealing with COVID. Funding has been and remains an open question. Citizens have expressed interest in other modes that get people out of their personal vehicles and strategies to address rush hour congestion which would be starved for resources if this sort of high-cost plan moved forward.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn Jernstedt*

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HB 2137