



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 2781

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 2781 which would enable the formation of a Special Bridge District encompassing Yamhill County. The likelihood of succeeding on the ballot seems remote at best. Special districts, once in place, have sweeping powers to levy and collect taxes. The focus will be extremely narrow and compete for resources with other modes of transportation that citizens have expressed interest in.

This bill has been proposed before and it would be a waste of time and effort to go forward now. The data presented by proponents is from 2015 and does not reflect changes in workplaces learned in dealing with COVID.

The very idea of a third bridge is not widely supported and another layer of tax collection has gotten even less support.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn Jernstedt*

Kathryn Jernstedt, President  
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HB 2781