

Submitter: Erich Brill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3323

Dear Legislative Members:

I am writing to express organizational support from Mercy Corps for HB 3323. Mercy Corps' global headquarters building is located just adjacent to the Burnside Bridge on the west side of Portland.

An Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge will play a critical role in community safety, response, and recovery after a major earthquake - providing numerous jobs in our region and move our community closer to its safety goals.

Oregon's largest metro region currently does not have a downtown bridge that will be usable immediately after a major earthquake. The Pacific Northwest regularly experiences some of the largest earthquakes in the world along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Completion of an Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project will ensure that we have at least one major downtown bridge that emergency responders can use after a major earthquake.

As an organization that responds to natural disasters and supports disaster relief efforts around the world, Mercy Corps understands the importance of having resilient infrastructure.

Once built, the new Burnside Bridge will improve mobility options, including safer and enhanced pedestrian, ADA and bicycle facilities and the opportunity to build a new streetcar line. We strongly support the replacement of the current 95+ year-old bridge that has reached the end of its service life. This project will help protect our region from a major disaster, foster our ability to recover after the earthquake and ensure that we have a reliable multi-modal bridge for the next century.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 3323 - and help secure a long-term solution for a safe and accessible Burnside Bridge.