



March 22, 2023

Legislators of the State of Oregon,

My name is Jeff Ellis and I write this letter on behalf of Kiewit Infrastructure.

We strongly urge the Legislature to support funding bills 33-23 and 33-01 to ensure a resilient Burnside Bridge in downtown Portland, and the creation of many new jobs. The project will not only support jobs for existing people in the trades, but support workforce development for an emerging and diverse generation of people in the construction workforce. The Project Labor Agreement has outlined goals to ensure that many of the jobs on this project will go to minorities, women, emerging new businesses and apprenticeships. Apprenticeships that are critical to this and several upcoming projects in the region.

In addition to the instrumental role it will play in resiliency, the building of a new Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge will provide over 6,000 job-years of employment for Oregonians between now and 2030. This will generate over \$545 million in the local, state and regional economy.

Right now, none of the downtown bridges are expected to withstand that earthquake. That's why Multnomah County is taking the lead on making at least one downtown bridge earthquake-ready, the Burnside Bridge. Located on an Emergency Transportation Route, the county's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project will ensure a new seismically resilient Burnside Bridge will be immediately available following the earthquake. This will allow emergency responders to support our community with rapid and reliable emergency response.

Thank you for your time to listen and consider building one of the most important bridges in our region and state.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ellis

Vice President

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.