

March 23, 2013

To: Oregon State Legislature

From: Bill Burgel – Portland Freight Committee member

Subject: Support of HB 3323

All:

Concerning HB 3323, I strongly urge that the State of Oregon support this bill which allocates \$300M towards the design and construction of an Earthquake Resilient Burnside Bridge (EQRB). Being a Portland Freight Committee member as well as 50+ year career in a major transportation company located here in Portland, I can state that this linkage WILL BE critical when this region is struck by a major earthquake. I understand the “science” behind Multnomah County’s decision to reconstruct the existing Burnside Bridge. The County has taken the first step in declaring that its only a matter of time before the Portland area is brought to its knees by either a subduction zone or a crustal quake. In all likelihood, all bridges (except for the Sellwood Bridge) connecting the east and west sides of the Willamette River will be destroyed.

In addressing the movement of freight in the aftermath of a quake, an EQRB will function to move goods and repair materials via trucks to locations in critical need on both sides of the Willamette River not only in the immediate Portland Area (such as Beaverton, Hillsboro & McMinnville) but also destinations clear to the Pacific Coast including Astoria, Seaside and Tillamook (these locations could be isolated in the event that the Megler Bridge in Astoria and the Lewis & Clark Bridge in Longview, WA are damaged by the quake).

Please continue what Multnomah County has started by improving the State’s resiliency necessary to survive a major earthquake. As Japan and Chile have shown, early preparation is vital for the long-term viability of our community and our state.