

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation  
on House Bill 3323**

**March 23, 2023**

**Jacqui Treiger, Campaign Manager: Climate and Transportation  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing in support of HB 3301 and HB 3323, which would provide important financial support for Multnomah County's Earthquake ready Burnside Bridge project.

This bridge is an essential element of the transportation network in the Portland Metro region, and the project not only replaces it, but establishes an essential post-earthquake connection that will support community safety, response, and recovery after a major earthquake. As an environmental policy advocacy organization, OEC is particularly interested in the role that the project will play in improving the regional bike, transit and pedestrian transportation networks.

Once built, the new Burnside Bridge will provide a connection that is safer, more convenient, and more comfortable for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with disabilities by removing one lane of vehicle traffic and widening the space allocated for pedestrians and bicycles. It will provide dedicated space for transit now and in the future. The project moves us toward a future transportation system that supports city, county, regional and state goals around climate and equity. OEC looks forward to a final project that centers the movement of people and goods, not private vehicles.

OEC also advocates for protection of safe sources of drinking water, healthy rivers, lakes and streams, and plentiful water resources for both wildlife and people. We are pleased that the new bridge will capture all stormwater from the bridge deck, treat it to satisfy the stringent City of Portland/Oregon state standards, and convey it into an upgraded stormwater treatment facility, improving the water quality of the Willamette River.

Finally, OEC supports the project's ambition to achieve a Gold certification in the Greenroads Sustainability Rating System during the design and construction phases of the bridge. OEC has long been engaged in advocating for reducing emissions in construction equipment, and we are



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excited that this will be the first big local project deploying the new Clean Air Construction Program, a collaboration among public agencies in the Portland Metro Area to reduce diesel emissions on their construction projects.

We strongly support HB 3301 and HB 3323, which support the replacement of the current 95-year-old bridge that has reached the end of its service life. This project will ensure that we have a safer, more accessible and equitable bridge for the next century.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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