

Submitter: Mike Alldritt
On Behalf Of: Ironworkers Local 29
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3323

March 23, 2023

?

To: Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain
Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

FR: Mike Alldritt, Ironworkers Local 29

RE: HB 3301 and 3323 Support

Co-Chair Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bills 3301 and 3323. The Ironworkers Local 29 represents more than 1,700 Journeyworkers and registered apprentices across Oregon and Southwest Washington. We are proud of our 4-year registered apprenticeship that allows people to earn as they learn and helps build and diversify the local workforce. Our members are a vital part of the skilled and local workforce that our state needs to build crucial transportation and energy infrastructure.

Local 29 urges the committee to support both HB 3301 and 3323 to ensure that we have resilient and earthquake ready transportation infrastructure in downtown Portland. Our region is at risk of a major Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake with some experts saying that there is a 1 in 3 chance that a magnitude 8+ earthquake will impact our region in the next 50 years. Right now, none of the downtown bridges are expected to withstand that earthquake. This is why we need to make sure the Burnside Bridge is earthquake-ready.

Additionally of huge benefit to our region are the jobs that this project will create. A new Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge will provide over 6,000 job-years of employment for Oregonians between now and 2030; generating an estimated \$545 million in the regional economy. Furthermore, we are thrilled to see the County continuing to prioritize workers with the Project Labor Agreement that the project will be built under. The PLA will make sure workers are paid fairly with benefits, and that a robust percentage of the work will be done by people of color, women, emerging new businesses, and registered apprentices. Local 29 would like to make it very clear to the legislature that Multnomah County is a great partner to work with and has a history of meeting and exceeding their diversity goals. There is no doubt in our mind that this project will help people from disadvantaged communities and create career

opportunities for Oregonians.

The Ironworkers Local 29 urges you to support HB 3301 and HB 3323. The Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge will help protect the region and the state from the impacts of a major disaster, promote workforce equity and development, and ensure that the region has a reliable and future-ready multi-modal bridge for the next century.