

Submitter: Camron Settlemier  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction,

I am writing to voice my strong support for a \$750,000 appropriation to restore the piling under the 2nd crossing of the Nehalem River Railroad Bridge near Mohler in Tillamook County, as requested by Senator Weber and Representative Javadi.

This shovel ready project will provide many benefits not only to the local safety and economy of Tillamook County, but also for all Oregonians like me that travel as tourists to Tillamook County.

The project will support the local economy by increasing tourism. The project will allow the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad to haul eager tourists such as myself up the Nehalem Canyon by train. Tourists that ride the train also support local business such as restaurants, hotels, and locally owned shops.

This project will help protect the community and surrounding areas. Restoration of this bridge will allow the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad to haul large water tanks quickly up the Nehalem Canyon if needed in case of wildfire. As we have seen from the devastating fires in previous years, being prepared is critical. With global warming induced weather changes, such necessary protection is not a matter of if but when.

Finally this project will restore a historic railroad trestle to operating condition. This bridge was originally constructed for the original transcontinental railroad in 1896. It was moved to its present location in 1930, making it one of the oldest extant bridges in Oregon. We owe it to future generations to keep the historically significant bridge viable.

Please approve the funding for the important revitalization of this bridge.

Sincerely,  
Camron Settlemier