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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

Because of our climate and rich productive soils, Oregon farmers and ranchers produce some of the highest quality products in the world. It is no secret that Oregon's Port of Portland is not large enough to ship out all of Oregon's agricultural products that cross the Pacific Ocean to foreign ports. That leaves us only two other options of states with major ports on the Pacific coast. Obviously, the larger Washington state shipping port is closer than California's and thus more financially feasible than moving product to California ports.

The looming problem, of course is, the I-5 bridge, crossing the Columbia River. Half of the bridge is old and the other half is REALLY old. Added to that problem is the increasing daily traffic load which increases the transportation costs and hinders the movement of Oregon's excellent agricultural products to the Washington state shipping ports.

The solution is SIMPLE, join the action of Washington state and authorize Oregon's share of the cost of replacing the bridge! "Tare down that (wall) bridge!". Thank you.