

Submitter: John Pascone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of the -2 amendment to HB 2098.

The I-5 bridge is a major transportation corridor for our region's economy. About 10% of the daily traffic over this bridge is freight, or approximately 13,500 trucks daily. It is the life line for Oregon's economic well being and prosperity.

Unfortunately, it's also a massive source of congestion. The congestion that is created in the corridor between the Rose Quarter and I-5 Bridge increases the cost of goods, creates unpredictability, and increases the emissions of both cars and trucks.

I urge the Legislature to act now to maximize our chance at federal dollars, and to do so in a bipartisan manner. Efforts to politicize the bridge for ideological goals will unnecessarily divide Oregonians. We need a right-sized bridge with enough space to meet today's traffic needs and for the next 100 years. If we do not act now, Oregon taxpayers will get stuck with an extraordinary cost that we cannot afford.

Thank you,

Regards, John Pascone, President