

Submitter: Julia Hammond
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

My name is Julia Hammond and I live in N Portland (97211), just a short walk & bike ride from I-5. I am the mother of a young child and a writer who works with nonprofit organizations to better our shared community.

I grew up in the Pacific NW with the shadow of "The Big One" hanging over my head. We held earthquake drills in my elementary school and my family keeps an emergency supply of food and water at the ready. I know we need to replace the Interstate Bridge with one that is seismic ready and can support mass transit. I am opposed to HB 2098 -2 because it limits our options to build a right sized bridge that meets the needs of our community right now. I am in favor of the -3 amendment that would invest in mass transit and provide much needed financial guardrails.

My son will be 2 this fall. I do not want the environmental and economic impacts the IBR to impact his future or our shared present. As a resident of N Portland who crosses I-5 regularly on bike and on foot, I want a bridge design that limits pollution (a seismic ready bridge does not require freeway expansion) and prioritizes people. This bridge should be built from Highway Trust Funds, not general fund bonds that are stressed to meet other, pressing needs. Let's work together to phase the project funding (like Washington State), and complete the necessary bridge replacement before moving on to other project areas.

Thank you Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members, for your time and consideration.