

Submitter: Ryan Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the forthcoming -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor provisions, finance guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

I am a little confounded in how long this debate has gone on, not specifically about HB 2098, but about implementing progressive transportation projects that do not harm the planet. It's 2023, democrats control the trifecta in Portland state government: including the governor. Progressive and democratic values should easily align with transportation projects that benefit the planet. We should not be committing further climate arson, and finding better ways to spend our money.

I live in North Portland, and i cannot open my windows some days because of the smell of vehicle traffic, not to mention days where climate-driven wildfire smoke prevents me from leaving my home. This neighborhood has born an unfair burden of pollution to benefit commuters who don't even live here, for decades; and unfairly born the burden of highway infrastructure. Please do not make matters worse.