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To: Members of the Joint-Transportation Committee

**From: Marie Dodds
AAA Oregon/Idaho**

Date: April 27, 2023

Re: HB 2098 (Dash 2 Amendment) Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement - Testimony in Support

Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Frederick, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Marie Dodds, and I am here today on behalf of AAA Oregon/Idaho in support of HB 2098 (Dash 2 Amendment), the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement legislative concept. As an organization dedicated to providing quality roadside assistance, travel services, and safety advocacy for our members, AAA Oregon/Idaho strongly supports this proposal. The draft measure includes a few crucial components including a specific plan to fund Oregon's share of the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement project; a clear statement reinforcing Oregon's commitment to quickly completing the Rose Quarter Project; and accountability measures designed to ensure that cost responsibility between light and heavy vehicles is maintained.

As an organization that serves more than 750,000 members from every corner of the State of Oregon, we urge the committee to take quick action to move this proposal forward. We believe the I-5 Interstate Bridge Replacement is critically important for the following reasons:

First, the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement will increase safety. The current bridge, which was built in 1958, is now over 60 years old and has significant safety concerns due to its outdated design and deteriorating condition. The bridge has a history of mechanical failures and structural issues, including cracked and corroded beams, which could lead to a catastrophic failure. Narrow lanes, no shoulders, poor sight distances on and near the bridge, frequent bridge lifts, and substandard ramp merging and diverging contribute to an increase in crashes. In addition, the current bridge will not withstand a major earthquake and will collapse during a Magnitude 8+ Cascadia Zone quake. Therefore, replacing the I-5 Bridge is necessary to ensure the safety of the thousands of commuters, travelers, transit, freight vehicles, and bicyclists that use it every day.

Second, the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement is a once in a century opportunity to address congestion for commuters, transit and freight through additional capacity and efficient traffic flow management.

Next, the new bridge will expand economic growth and opportunities. A safe, updated Interstate 5 Bridge ensures security and predictability for freight, transit, and passenger vehicles, including those getting to and from work to support themselves, their family, and their communities. Additionally, a new bridge would support economic development and job creation, allowing businesses to expand and attract new investments to the region.

Finally, moving this package forward will position Oregon to take advantage of once in a generation Federal funding that is available through competitive grants from the IJA Federal Transportation Package.

We encourage your support and action to fund this important initiative investing in Oregon's safety, reducing congestion, expanding economic growth, and enhancing quality of life. We believe this is a critical investment in the State of Oregon, and we are committed to working with you to ensure its successful completion.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.