



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

Testimony in Support of
House Bill 2098-2 Amendments
Presented to the
Joint Committee on Transportation
April 27, 2023

Good evening, Co-Chairs Representative McLain and Senator Frederick, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation. My name is Marshall Coba representing the American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon. ACEC is a professional organization promoting and protecting the engineering profession with 115 member firms and more than 5,000 employees statewide. I am proud to be here in strong support of the -2 amendments to House Bill 2098 to support the interstate bridge replacement as this bridge is much more than a connector between two states and three countries.

First of all, I'd like to thank you for your service on this committee. As you ran for office, the interstate bridge replacement may not have been a doorstep issue; but it is now. Oregonians and Washingtonians from all parts of the northwest have become focused on this project. It is your responsibility, your duty to wade through the noise and find the nugget. As a former lobbyist for both the Oregon Trucking Association and AAA Oregon, and as the past president of the Oregon Highway Users Council, it is of great interest to me and to the professional engineers in both states that this legislature chooses to move forward with the project.

We have all heard, understand, and appreciate the plethora of concerns as to why we need a new bridge. The seismic concerns; the bridge was old when the CRC failed 10-years ago and its now a 10-year older bridge concerns; the economic calamity that will ensue if the bridge were to become structurally obsolete concern; and the unimaginable societal malaise that would happen if the bridge fails to function concerns. One of these concerns is enough to move forward with the bridge but the reality is that all these concerns remain in play every day this project does not move towards completion. The sudden failure of the current bridge and the resulting ongoing ruination of so much we hold dear is our uneasy reality. This is our project, this is our legacy, and this is our time.

ACEC-Oregon requests your support of the House Bill 2098-2 amendments.

Thank you for your service.