

Submitter: Timur Ender  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members,

My name is Timur Ender and I am writing to oppose the -2 amendment to HB 2098.

I support replacing the I-5 bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the -3 amendment that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor and community benefits provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

Infrastructure is about people. It should serve to build wealth opportunities for Black/Women/Service-disabled contractors. It should support union jobs. It should invest in a future where everyone can thrive.

As our population ages, it is important for seniors to have convenient ways to move around that don't necessitate driving, particularly in this area where options to cross the river are limited.

It is important that this bridge doesn't put the state in a position where it is unable to address safety issues on urban arterials. Thus, the price tag of the bridge should not be so enormous that ODOT is saddled with years of debt payment and is unable to make other investments in communities across Oregon.

I urge the state legislature to build this bridge soon but with the appropriate labor, multimodal, community benefits, and environmental justice goals so that the region gets the most mileage out of this bridge.

Thank you,  
Timur