

April 28, 2023

RE: HB 2098 – I-5 Bridge

To: Transportation Committee

Attn: Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick

It is truly unfortunate that there would be any reservation about the need for a new seismically sound and safe bridge on the I-5 corridor connecting Washington and Oregon. The impact to our economy due to the inadequate lane space and adequate safe thoroughfare is tremendous. Considering the daily value of freight that moves over that bridge is in excess of \$70M a day it would seem appropriate to accommodate that activity. I think the most upsetting part of this for me personally is that the tax payor cost have doubled since this was last proposed and I find that inexcusable.

Please pass the amendments to build a new and safe I-5 bridge..

Respectfully,

John H Russell, JR