

Submitter: Dale Lemmons
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

My name is Dale Lemmons. I am President of Signature Transport, Inc. in Kelso, WA. Our company employs approximately 100 people in Oregon and Washington. We are in the trucking business of transporting wood chips from several Sawmills to paper mills in both Washington and Oregon. We also transport live chickens from numerous farms in Oregon to the processing plant in Washington. between both these endeavors we make 80 to 100 trips per day through the I-5/I-205 corridor. Over the past several years we have seen congestion rise and it is expected to rise further as freight increases and population growth increases commuter traffic. This is very detrimental to all highway users. The cost for commuting and moving freight are increased as they burn more fuel sitting in traffic and the lifestyle of those people is diminished as they waste hours of their lives when they could be spending time with friends and family. This sitting in traffic also has an environmental impact as well, as the vehicles put more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

That is why I am asking for you to support the I-5 bridge replacement with the -2 amendments. The bridge is at the end of it's useful life and is way under capacity for the amount of traffic needed to move through that corridor daily. Now is the time to move forward with the replacement. As we have seen, waiting will only cost more for the replacement in the future.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Dale Lemmons