

Submitter: Maxwell Scher
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 Max Scher, I live in Southwest Portland and I often travel across the I-5 bridge to visit friends and family in Vancouver and Ridgefield, Washington.

I support replacing the I-5 bridge, but strongly oppose the amendment HB 2098 -2 because the legislation would jeopardize a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. Instead, I support the -3 amendment because it ensures that the Replacement Bridge project continues forward with explicit pro-labor and community benefits provisions, financial guardrails, and --perhaps most importantly-- major investments in mass transit.

Every transportation project in this country moving forward should be centered around and prioritizing investment in environmentally sustainable transit. By building in provisions that require major investments in mass transit, amendment -3 will not only make transporting between Oregon & Washington accessible, affordable, safe, and efficient for everyone... It will serve our long-term goals of centering air pollution reductions.

To move forward with a project that doesn't prioritize reducing air pollution and increasing opportunities for accessible public transit would be a deliberate refusal to serve the citizens of the surrounding communities equally. Furthermore, it would be aiding and abetting an automotive-first infrastructure that increasingly damages our ability to preserve and sustain the resources on this planet.