

Submitter: Sacha Gripman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

Joint Committee on Transportation,

I urge you to support the passage of HB 2098, yet this legislation must not pass with the -2 Amendment which is both fiscally irresponsible and detrimental to our environment. The -2 Amendment would set in motion a massively oversized Interstate Bridge Replacement Program plan and provide funding to massively expand segments of highway in the Portland metropolitan area. This amendment is extremely fiscally irresponsible and uses massive sums of Oregon's budget to carry out projects that are environmentally detrimental. Multiple studies have concluded that freeway expansions do not ease traffic congestion, rather traffic congestion grows proportionally to freeway capacity. Expanding freeways in North Portland would only serve to worsen the current congestion issues that plague our city. I urge you to reject the irresponsible -2 Amendment and instead support Representative Pham's proposed -3 Amendment which would right-size this bill and the Interstate Bridge Replacement plan. Oregonians deserve transportation infrastructure that is aligned with our values of equity, responsibility, and environmental stewardship. Please help ensure the IBR is right-sized by passing HB 2098, rejecting the irresponsible -2 Amendment, and supporting the -3 Amendment. Thank you.