

Submitter: Jeffrey Yasskin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this 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 (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with a right-sized design, explicit pro-labor provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

I hear all the time that we don't have the money to pay for essential projects in Oregon, like safe streets, good facilities for active transportation, mental health facilities, and schools, but we somehow have the money to rebuild a bunch of highway interchanges so that the I-5 bridge can be high enough that it doesn't have to open once a night to let a ship through. The I-5 bridge needs to have roughly the same capacity for cars that it has today, ensure it has space for pedestrians, bikes, and busses, and leave some money for the other essential safety projects in the state.