

Submitter: Melissa Kostelecky
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.

As a parent, we cannot continue to bankrupt our state by forging ahead with massive, bloated projects that we have long known will only induce more driving, more congestion and more carbon emissions. There are a number of more urgent needs in Oregon, including tackling homelessness, funding better schools, and repairing the hundreds of other seismically inadequate bridges. We also need more transportation choice in the form of trains, bus rapid transit, and safe pedestrian and biking infrastructure. For such a massive project, any I-5 bridge replacement should be done right and with extremely careful consideration.

Thank you.