

Submitter: Robert Galanakis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I do not support replacing the I-5 bridge. I have never seen math that makes this project work out. Let's invest this money in interventions that make our communities more resilient at a local level, not spending billions replacing a single crossing. We are experiencing budget crises from over-extending ourselves on infrastructure; the responsible thing is to let some of that infrastructure degrade, or replace it with low cost, low maintenance alternatives. If we won't do this bridge without money from the federal government, it isn't worth doing. Capital project money must not induce us to make bad choices.

If this project must proceed, let it proceed with the -3 Amendments, since that at least seeks to limit the scope of the inevitable overspending that will go on, and have some other positive effects like stronger labor commitments. As this bill stands, with the -2 amendments, this will go down as a generational mistake that Oregonians like my children will live with for their entire lives.