

Submitter: Ben Schonberger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing the I-5 bridge, but I oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation interferes with the ability to right-size a Bridge Replacement. I support the -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) because it ensures a right-sized design and includes provisions that support labor, sets financial guardrails, and makes mass transit investments.

A mega-project will drain billions of dollars of state funding that is badly needed for other things, including other infrastructure like affordable housing, clean energy, schools, and transit. The bridge replacement should be right-sized to take into consideration its carbon emissions, risk to other high-impact investments (Powell Boulevard, etc.), and the risk of out-of-control cost overruns. State dollars are needed for basic maintenance and safety projects in hundreds of other jurisdictions across Oregon, and an all-consuming, Dune-like sandworm project will swallow that money and make it nearly impossible to meet these needs. Expanding a freeway to push more cars through North and Northeast Portland, where I live with my children, will increase air pollution and create unacceptable health impacts on my neighbors.