

Submitter: Eldo Varghese

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Hello We are Eldo Varghese and Dr. Giulia Leggett and live in Portland OR. We oppose the legislation as it currently stands. We do support replacing the I-5 bridge, but oppose HB 2098 amendments -2 and -4 because this legislation as currently written would jeopardize a right-sized bridge replacement. The -3 amendment is an impressive step forward in addressing these concerns. We encourage the committee to build on this progress and pass a bill that ensures the project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor and community benefits provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit, biking, and pedestrian infrastructure. Investing in freeway expansion is at best wasting billions of dollars and at worst furthers our climate change crisis.

- Eldo Varghese and Dr. Giulia Leggett