

05/04/2023

RE: HB2098

Testimony of Heather Hayes, Vice President

Tradewinds Transportation LLC, Albany, Oregon

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My family has been delivering goods via truck since the early 1980's. In 2002 we started Tradewinds Transportation with 20 trucks and 25 employees. Today, we run 97 truck and trailer combinations throughout the US and employ/contract 140 people.

Tradewinds is an Oregon Trusted Carrier and has been the recipient of numerous safety awards both locally and nationally. In 2022, Tradewinds logged 7.5 million miles, 2.2 million of those miles were Oregon miles. As an Oregon carrier, we are increasingly challenged with the safe movement of goods. Population growth and congestion has added a tremendous cost to our industry by slowing the movement of goods and created the need for more trucks and drivers to deliver those goods. The I-5 corridor is ranked among the nation's top 100 most congested corridors and the I-5 bridge specifically is ranked #31 as a top bottleneck. Bottlenecks slow freight movement and increase "near roadway" air pollution. This bottleneck desperately needs attention from our leaders as the problem is only expected to worsen with population growth and freight movements projected to double by 2040. The I-5 bridge specifically presents safety hazards because of congestion, but also due to slim lanes and lack of shoulders. Most importantly, the bridge is not seismically sound. This is extremely alarming because of the "big one" that Northwest leaders have emphasized that we prepare for. This bridge collapse would impede the movement of emergency supplies and services to our communities, not to mention exponentially increase the loss of life, when that predicted, and inevitable, seismic event occurs.

To conclude Tradewinds encourages the legislature to support HB2098. This bill is a very important first step in building a safe infrastructure for our growing state. It would allow access to federal funds relieving taxpayers from a large portion of the cost. Most importantly, it reduces the climate cost of congestion. Please support the 2 amendments in HB2098.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.