



4 May 2023

To: Members of the Joint-Transportation Committee

Re: Support for HB 2098 Dash 2 Amendment Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement

Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Frederick, and Members of the Committee:

The Columbia Corridor is home to 3000 businesses employing 75,000 people in family wage jobs. The Columbia Corridor is Oregon's largest economic corridor. It's the heart of Portland's industrial sector and freight movement is our lifeblood. The industrial sector is important because it employs more people of color and LGBTQ in family wage jobs than any other sector. These jobs are part of the answer to many of our current problems.

We support HB 2098 (Dash 2 Amendment) because it provides a specific plan to fund Oregon's share of the Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement project as well as support for the Rose Quarter Project. The concerns over funding sources deserve due diligence. However, the priority must be to secure funding before the significant federal match is lost.

There is no doubt that the current bridge has served us well and is past its lifespan. It does not meet current safety or seismic standards and the congestion is a drain on our industrial economy. 70% of the freight traffic gets on or off I-5 in the bridge study area. It is a critical part of the daily operations of Oregon's industry.

The new I-5 Bridge Replacement will save lives, improve our economy and create a world class bike route with an incredible view. To give up this second chance at significant federal funding for a much-needed bridge replacement would be tragic.

A lot of hard work has been put into the design. A lot of compromises have been made by many people of goodwill. Now it's in your hands. We strongly ask you to secure funds for the I-5 bridge replacement. Secure funds for safety, seismic resilience, economic growth, quality of life and the best bike route in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Corky Collier'.

Corky Collier
Executive Director