

Submitter: Shane Kwiatkowski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members,

My name is Shane Kwiatkowski, and I currently live in Vancouver, WA, though over the last 5 years I lived in several parts of SE Portland, mostly in what is now Rep. Khanh Pham's district. I've had to move around a lot because housing costs continue to escalate and I've had a tough time finding stable housing in the parts of my region where I want to live, increasing my dependency on driving a car more than I'd like it to. I'm testifying in support of the Dash 3 Amendment and in opposition to the Dash 2 and Dash 4 amendments to make sure we replace this bridge that has played a crucial role in my life.

I am a caregiver and board member of Portland: Neighbors Welcome, a grassroots advocacy non-profit focused on long-term housing opportunity and tenant protections. I've lived in the area for over 30 years, a proud local transfeminine woman.

I have family, friends, and commerce in both Washington and Oregon. I recognize the urgency to replace the bridge. I drive over it frequently, and it's a mess. The new bridge absolutely must be safe and operable. I cross the bridge often, but the investment that would help me find stability the most is making investments in housing and transit, not an oversized bridge with five miles of extra lanes of freeway. Instead: a bridge that is multimodal and environmentally conscious; a bridge that has fiscal guardrails to make sure we don't waste millions of dollars and get nowhere like we did the last time - we need those millions of General Fund Dollars to invest in affordable housing to address Oregon's urgent housing crisis. I'm tired of wasting resources on boondoggles when we could do the research, budget it right, and invest our limited resources in infrastructure and programs that actually help all Oregonians and Washingtonians.

Please support the Dash 3 amendment to ensure we move forward with replacing this bridge so that I can continue to cross the bridge safely, that in the future I'll have better options on whether I drive or take transit, and that Oregon has the resources to invest in the other programming necessary to help me live in my hometown.

Thank you for your time