

Submitter: Nancy Betty Baumeister

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2 and -4, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with a right-sized design, explicit pro-labor provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit. We need a clean bill focused solely on the replacement of this bridge so we secure immediate federal funding and prepare to hold a statewide conversation about the rest of our transportation system in future years.

I am concerned that ODOT is building infrastructure that is oversized, will certainly be over budget (given ODOT's track record) and inappropriate for a world in which we need better mass transit, rather than more car traffic. It will compete for dollars with other worthy projects. It creates a large future liability for future Oregonians who will have to pay to replace when it finally ages. In a world where climate change is a real threat, we should not be building larger freeways and encouraging more driving.