

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

My name is Anna Kahler and I live in SE Portland. I am the communications manager for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility which is an organization dedicated to protecting human and environmental health from the gravest threats to survival. I am testifying on behalf of Oregon PSR which is a member of the Just Crossing Alliance and we support the -3 amendment and opposed -2 and -4. As an organization our concerns center around the impact that the IBR project will have on human and environmental health.

Portland has some of the worst air quality in the country, and exhaust from vehicles is one of the major contributors to this. North and NorthEast Portland are particularly impacted by vehicle exhaust in addition to pollution from industry and train transport. Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) specifically are one of the major pollutants in Portland according to the Department of Environmental Quality<sup>1</sup>. Particulate Matter comes from diesel and gas, making cars, trucks and other motorized vehicles major contributors to increased levels of particulate matter. PM's from cars and trucks have been linked to increased risk for cancer, asthma, neurological disorders, cardiac disease and more.<sup>2</sup>

While we appreciate the work that the IBR project team has done around environmental sustainability and their participation in the supplemental Environmental Impact Study, Oregon PSR is deeply concerned by the lack of a Health Impact Assessment. The conduction of an HIA was one of the conditions placed by local partners in Portland when they approved the LPA. In order to truly understand the health implications of the IBR project, an HIA must be conducted. We cannot sacrifice the health of communities for a slightly lower traffic time.

Our final concern rests in the usage of general funds to fund the IBR project. With the excessive price of the LPA and ODOT's long history of continuously going over budget, Oregon PSR is concerned that this project will eat up funds for necessary health services and transportation projects throughout the state. It is unacceptable for a single transportation project to be prioritized over the health and safety of Oregonians around the state. For far too long the state has stood by while traffic deaths on Powell Blvd, the Tualatin Valley Higher, NE 82nd and more continue to increase. There must be funds available to invest in transportation infrastructure across the state, and we are running the risk of spending far too much money on a single project that could be done significantly cheaper.

We hope you will consider the -3 amendment so that we can have a new seismically safe bridge that doesn't compete with the health and safety of Oregonians around the state.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Department of Environmental Quality : Air Quality in the Portland Region : Air Quality : State of Oregon](#)

<sup>2</sup> [\\*Airborne Particulate Matter and Public Health Factsheet \(FINAL updated 10-5-15\).pdf \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](#)

Thank you,  
Anna Kahler, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility