

February 11, 2025

RE: Support for SB 458 – Highway 30 Study

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation Members:

I am the mill manager at the Georgia-Pacific Wauna mill, located at Milepost 72.5 on Highway 30. I am committed to the safety of our 800+ team members who commute to our facility via Highway 30, often during early and late hours, and frequently in darkness for many months of the year.

Highway 30 is also a major freight route for receiving raw materials, maintenance supplies, and other essential materials. However, there are several safety concerns that need to be addressed:

- **Insufficient lighting:** Highway 30 is very dark with minimal lighting.
- **Frequent fog:** Clatskanie and Bradley Hills often experience fog, reducing visibility.
- **Slide area:** Bradley Hill has a slide area that requires improvements.
- **Lack of guardrails:** Significant portions of Clatskanie Hill lack guardrails. Adding guardrails with reflector tape would greatly enhance visibility on Clatskanie Hill.
- **Visibility improvements:** Lighting around areas where flooding/rock hazards exist would be beneficial.

When slides, flooding, fallen trees, or vehicle accidents occur, Highway 30 can be shutdown for several hours, or even days and weeks. This plant has nearly a \$100 million payroll that directly benefits the Lower Columbia Region and when team members or freight cannot safely get to work it has a direct impact on the local economy. In addition, the Wauna mill has announced a \$150 million rebuild of our No. 1 Paper Machine, which will have 500 contractors at peak construction. All of these contractors and the freight will use Highway 30.

We appreciate all that the Oregon Department of Transportation's Clatskanie and Astoria offices do; however, design changes are necessary to improve safety and to improve traffic flow for economic development.

Georgia-Pacific is proud to operate in Wauna, and I thank Senator Weber and the Joint Transportation Committee for reviewing and hopefully supporting this bill to make it safer for our team members and the entire community.

Sincerely,

Keith Seal

V.P. Manufacturing – Wauna Mill