

Submitter: Gabriel Shefstad
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB458

February 7, 2025
Oregon State Legislature
Attn: Joint Transportation Committee
Salem, Oregon

Dear Joint Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill (SB) 458, the Highway 30 Study Bill, which aims to examine the road conditions from Astoria, Oregon to the Lewis and Clark Bridge crossing into Longview, Washington and explore new engineering controls, guard rails, reflectors, lighting, etc. that can reduce crashes.

As an employee of Georgia-Pacific, I rely on Highway 30 every day to get to work. It is the only route available for me and many of my colleagues who live in different counties. However, Highway 30 is also a very dangerous road, with many curves, blind spots, and narrow lanes. In the last three years alone, four fatal car crashes have occurred on Clatskanie Hill, around milepost 59 where there is an S-curve. This is just one example of many along Highway 30, including a slide area on Bradley Hill. Everyone who travels this highway regularly has a story about the driving conditions. The safety of Highway 30 is not only a personal concern for me and my co-workers, but also a safety and business concern for many in my community. We rely on Highway 30 for ambulance transportation, school bus transportation, and to service the community's electrical energy infrastructure during severe weather. When Highway 30 is shut down for road accidents, landslides, and for weather or other reasons it impacts the community's safety since in many cases the alternate routes are roads not designed for a large amount of traffic or there are no alternate routes, and it also impacts local businesses in their ability to operate. It is a frequent occurrence that Highway 30 is shutdown.

If Highway 30 is not improved, it will continue to have a negative impact on the safety of our community and on the economic development of our rural economy. That is why I urge you to support SB 458 and allocate funds for a comprehensive study of Highway 30.

I have worked at Wauna for 28 years, my father retired from Wauna, my wife has worked at Wauna for over 15 years, and now my daughter is working there too. As a lifelong Clatskanie resident, I know the dangers associated with highway 30. I have personally been involved in an accident on hwy 30, and about 20 years ago I almost lost my brother because someone crossed the centerline and hit him head on while he was driving up Clatskanie Hill to go to work.

thank you

Gabriel Shefstad