



William Dombrowsky
Local 1097 President

February 11, 2025

RE: Support for SB 458 – Highway 30 Study

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation Members:

I am writing to you as the president of United Steelworkers Local 1097, representing more than 650 dedicated members who work at the Georgia-Pacific Wauna mill. Our members take great pride in working safely, providing for our families, creating great American manufactured products and giving back to our community.

To get to our jobs, we all need to drive Highway 30 and most of us must navigate over either Clatskanie Hill or Bradley Hill. Our members are on the road 365 days a year, at all hours of the day, in various weather conditions including fog, rain, and snow traveling over high elevation roads with limited lighting and guardrails. In addition, summer brings its own hazards with the summer tourist season that creates additional congestion and safety concerns.

On our commutes it is not surprising to face either landslides, water over the road, fallen trees, car crashes, wildlife collisions and at times Highway 30 can be shutdown for hours to even weeks. When this happens, the alternate routes are not ideal and at times include driving the Washington side and taking the Wahkiakum Ferry to the mill which can add hours to our commutes.

Georgia-Pacific continues to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into our mill and they continue to hire, which contributes significantly to our local community. I am urging you to support and fund the proposed Highway 30 study. Rural workers, like those I represent, deserve safe roads. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) teams in Clatskanie and Astoria do commendable work, but more investment is needed to improve the actual safety features of our roads especially on Clatskanie and Bradley Hills where guard railing, reflectors and slide repair is needed.

I appreciate your support in making Highway 30 safer for all who travel it.

Sincerely,
William Dombrowsky
Local 1097 President