



February 11, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Attn: Joint Transportation Committee
Salem, Oregon 97301

Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, I am writing in **strong support of SB 458**, which directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to study U.S. Highway 30 between mileposts 49 and 94. We support an assessment of the current hazards and identifying improvements, including new engineering, guard rails, and other safety measures that could reduce the dangers that have unfortunately led to high levels of accidents, landslides and even fatalities.

As the trade organization that represents not only large landowners but forest products manufacturers all over Oregon, safety is a core priority. And that doesn't just include the mill manufacturing environment, it also includes the roads our members employees travel on to reach their work destination. Together, OFIC members provide for themselves, their families, and more than 60,000 other households via their lands and manufacturing facilities and ensuring they are able to safely travel to and from work is of utmost importance to us.

We have several large members that employ hundreds of Oregonians via their facilities located along Highway 30 and it is not in dispute that the section of the highway subject to this study is dangerous, with many curves, blind spots and narrow lanes. Identifying strategic improvements will move the ball forward toward meaningful steps to reduce accidents and fatalities, while ensuring a safer, more efficient transportation network.

We applaud Senator Weber and the other members of the legislature who have signed on to this important bill and urge the committee to support moving it forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Eliason
On Behalf of the Oregon Forest Industries Council