

# COLUMBIA COUNTY

## Board of Commissioners Office

### Commissioners

Margaret Magruder  
Kellie Jo Smith  
Casey Garrett

### Administration

Jacyn Normine  
Kathy Coddington

### Communications

Mark Pacheco



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

230 Strand St., Room 338

Direct (503) 397-4322

Fax (503) 366-7243

columbiacountyor.gov

February 11, 2025

RE: SB 458

Requires ODOT to study a section of U.S. Highway 30

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee:

Traveling daily on U.S. 30 from Northwest of Clatskanie to St. Helens I am witness to the need to address the issue of safety on this route. As a life-long resident of a farm with a driveway that intersects Hwy. 30 I have seen the continual increase in traffic along this route. The traffic traveling to and from both the Oregon and Washington Coasts, traveling to and from work at the GP Wauna Mill, and the multiple School Districts and other businesses located in the cities along this route has increased markedly over the years.

With this increased traffic the number of accidents has grown considerably. This, no doubt, is due not only to the increase in traffic but, I do notice, that drivers seem to be unaware of the traffic rules: speeding, use of turn signals, passing in unsafe areas and a variety of other infractions.

The increased traffic also leads to greater wear and tear on the highway surface which is also exacerbated by the natural occurrences of landslides and flooding.

Development of industries at Port Westward and other industrial sites along this corridor will only add to the traffic challenges. Land use restrictions and the impacts of the FEMA Bi-op continue to limit development of housing in Columbia and Clatsop Counties so workers often live outside the Counties and must travel distances to employment. Highway 30 is the usual route of travel.

I urge you to support SB 458 to address the growing and ongoing need for repair and safety solutions to this section of US Hwy 30.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret C. Magruder".

Margaret C. Magruder