

February 11, 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 USW Local 1097 in Westport, I rely on Highway 30 every day to get to work. It is the only route available for me. 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. When this slide happened, those of us that needed to get passed it had to either go into Astoria and take the Washington side to Cathlamet and take the ferry over to Oregon or go all the way into Longview and come back to highway 30 in Rainier. The "fix" they have on the area of the slide is horrible, the road is so rough through it. Everyone who travels on 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 shut down.

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.

Sincerely,

Melissa Smith