



February 18, 2025

To: Rep. Thuy Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: Jon Isaacs, Executive Vice-President, Public Affairs
Portland Metro Chamber

RE: Support for HB 2726

Chair Tran and members of the Committee:

The Portland Metro Chamber (PMC) is the oldest, largest and most diverse business organization in Oregon and SW Washington, and the leading voice for business in the region. The Chamber advocates at all levels of government to improve commerce, encourage community development and grow regional economic prosperity.

PMC supports HB 2726, which authorizes \$20M in lottery bonds in this biennium and \$25M in next biennium to the Columbia Corridor Flood Safety Project. In 2024, Multnomah County voters approved \$150M in bonds funded by property tax assessments that will go toward this Project, which will repair and expand the river levee system that shields the valley from flooding. Lottery bonds from the state will complete the \$195M funding needed for the project, and unlock the \$100M match from the federal government to meet federal safety standards.

The levees protect an economic development area that, while located in Portland, is of statewide significance. The Portland International Airport, three major highways, two major rail lines, thousands of homes, and tens of thousands of jobs are within the floodplain; Oregon cannot afford to allow the risk of flood or to become out of compliance with federal safety standards that would force property owners into a high-risk flood insurance designation.

PMC appreciates your consideration of our comments, and urges your support for the bonding that enables this essential project.