



Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon
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Testimony to the
Oregon Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation in Support of HB 2184

March 31, 2025

Good day Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

My name is Jonathan W. Smith, Sr. and I am the Chairman of the 29th Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS or Tribe). I provide this testimony in support of House Bill 2184.

The city of Hood River and its surrounding areas lie within the ceded territory of the CTWS, the first inhabitants of over 10 million acres. As such, we have significant cultural and religious ties to the Columbia River, especially near Hood River where we have harvested our First Foods since time immemorial. We continue to exercise our reserved Treaty rights, our culture and religion in this area today where many of our tribal members still live. Our tribal members and staff regularly cross the Hood River bridge in the exercise of these Treaty rights and in support of their families. This is why we support and invest in our region and its improvements, working to create economic, safety and housing opportunities for our tribal members, families, and neighbors.

The Hood River White Salmon Bridge Replacement project will increase the preservation of this vital transportation conduit across the Columbia River that is used by our tribal members. This improved artery will address several necessary improvements to increase safety and multi-modal transportation access for the surrounding communities. Objectives of this project aimed squarely at improving transportation of the bridgeway area include:

1. Improve traffic operations for current and future cross-river traffic and at connections to I-84 and SR 14;
2. Improve vehicle and freight travel safety by reducing real and perceived hazards;
3. Improve the river crossing's seismic resiliency;
4. Maintain and improve a transportation link between the White Salmon, Bingen, and Hood River communities, businesses and services;



5. Provide a cross-river connection for bicyclists and pedestrians; and
6. Fulfill the legislative directives tied to the Project funding.

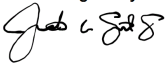
This project is important for our tribal fisherman, tribal members, tribal family members and tribal staff who frequently use the bridge for to access their homes, fishing sites, transport their catch and for work.

We respectfully ask this committee to support HB 2184. Passing this bill will eliminate bridge hazards that currently exist, increase usage of the bridge, and improve a vital, cross-river transportation link. The benefits of this crucial Hood River White Salmon Bridge Replacement project would be lasting and affect this generation and those to come.

We appreciate your service, and we are happy to be a resource if you have additional questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


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Jonathan W. Smith, Sr.
Chair, Tribal Council