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Member Jurisdictions

Clark County Skamania County Klickitat County City of Vancouver City of Camas City of Washougal City of Battle Ground City of Ridgefield City of La Center Town of Yacolt City of Stevenson City of North Bonneville City of White Salmon City of Bingen City of Goldendale C-TRAN Washington DOT Port of Vancouver Port of Camas-Washougal Port of Ridgefield Port of Skamania County Port of Klickitat Cowlitz Indian Tribe Metro Oregon DOT 14th Legislative District 17th Legislative District 18th Legislative District 20th Legislative District

49th Legislative District

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair The Honorable Susan McLain, Co-Chair The Honorable Bruce Starr, Co-Vice Chair The Honorable Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair

RE: Support Funding for Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge Construction (HB 2184)

I am offering comments and support on behalf of the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC), a WA state designated MPO/RTPO serving the counties of Clark, Skamania and Klickitat. These comments are offered in support of House Bill 2184.

RTC, in collaboration with government agency partners from Klickitat County, has been actively engaged in the planning and outreach involved with the planned replacement of the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge. Replacement of this interstate bridge is the top-ranking unfunded project priority within the RTC's Regional Transportation Plan for Klickitat County (February 2024).

Over the past several years, Washington and Oregon counterparts have worked diligently to develop a governance and funding plan for the planned bridge replacement. In 2022, Washington state's Move Ahead Washington transportation funding act committed \$75 Million towards bridge construction, and an additional \$50 Million investment is proposed in the 2025 WA legislative session. Appropriation and authorization of Oregon state investment in this project is essential during the 2025 legislative session.

RTC supports the authorization of GO Bonds in Oregon, which keeps the project on track, and creates fund leverage opportunities for pending grant applications. HB 2184 provides an essential investment into bi-state bridge infrastructure, enabling a safe and multi-modal connection, and promoting resiliency and economic prosperity within the Gorge region for years to come.

Sincerely

Matt Ransom
Executive Director