

Submitter: Kayla Marean
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2184

As a small business owner in the Columbia River Gorge, I am writing to strongly urge your support for House Bill 2184, which would fund the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project. This 100-year-old bridge is not only outdated and unsafe but also a critical lifeline for residents, businesses, and the local economy.

My business relies on this bridge daily, as do countless others on both sides of the river. The current structure, with its narrow lanes and lack of pedestrian and bike access, poses safety risks and economic challenges. A modern, reliable replacement will ensure safe travel, support local commerce, and strengthen the economic resilience of our communities.

For small business owners like myself, the ability to move goods, meet customers, and sustain operations depends on safe and efficient infrastructure. Investing in a new bridge is not just about replacing an aging structure—it's about securing the future of the Gorge and the people who live and work here.