



April 1, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: HB 2184 – SUPPORT

Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Starr, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“Gorge”).

Friends supports HB 2184 which provides necessary funding to support the replacement of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge. This bridge is one of only a handful of Columbia River crossings available to residents and visitors of the Columbia River Gorge. It is a critical piece of infrastructure for the health, safety, and economy of residents of the Gorge. Tribal members in the region use the bridge to access federally designated tribal fishing sites.

The age and design of the bridge are not consistent with today’s seismic and economic realities and must be addressed. It can only support a single lane of traffic in each direction with no safe paths for pedestrians or bicyclists. This bridge replacement project will provide much needed infrastructure improvements that will benefit Gorge residents and visitors, as well as the region’s economy.

Please support HB 2184 and fund the modernization of this key piece of infrastructure for communities in the Gorge.

Sincerely,
Madison Kenney
Conservation Organizer