

# CITY OF HOOD RIVER

211 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: 541-386-1488

April 2, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hood River City Council, I appreciate the Oregon Legislature's continued attention to the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge replacement and submit this testimony in support of HB 2184.

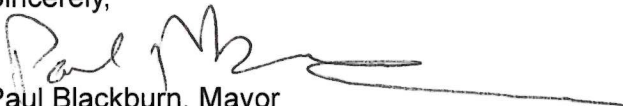
The existing bridge is now 100 years old and no longer meets the safety, seismic, or functional needs of our region. The absence of shoulders and bike lanes on the current bridge greatly limits transportation options for cyclists and pedestrians, hindering connectivity between rural towns in the Columbia Gorge area of Oregon and Washington.

Oregon's prior investments toward the new bridge—including \$5 million from the HB 2017 transportation package, which helped restart the project—have advanced the project through to design, permitting, and environmental review. Passage of HB 2184 represents the next step in this effort, positioning the project to unlock the full federal funding needed to move into construction.

This bridge is critical to our regional economy and quality of life. Please count the City of Hood River among the many jurisdictions, agencies, and community partners working together to deliver a safe and modern replacement bridge.

Thank you for your consideration of this essential regional infrastructure.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Blackburn, Mayor  
City of Hood River