



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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April 2, 2025

Joint Committee On Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support House Bill 2184,

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

Please accept this letter of testimony in support of House Bill 2184, which would provide essential state funding for the replacement of the Hood River – White Salmon Bridge.

The Hood River White Salmon Bridge is a critical lifeline for Hood River County, the City of White Salmon, and their neighboring Washington communities in Klickitat and Skamania Counties.

From our county workforce, many of whom reside in Washington State, to our businesses, that depend on the commerce generated by Washington residents, to emergency response – the current bridge has a 100-year history of tying our region together as an economic engine. Specific to Hood River County, as a county that has one of the lowest permanent property tax rates, we are dependent on proceeds from our county forest to fund the provision of mandated services to our residents. Currently timber harvests are processed in Bingen and are not able to cross the existing bridge, this is a cost to these contracts which on an annual basis could provide an additional \$250,000 in revenue to the county.

The replacement bridge project is in good hands and is making progress toward construction, but this funding is critical to ensure the momentum is maintained and contractors remain mobilized. The replacement bridge project enjoys broad regional support at the local, state, and federal levels. The key to delivery is the fulfillment of the project funding plan, which relies on matching funds from each state and a significant local contribution, which will leverage a nearly 80% share from the federal government.

Each year that the project is delayed means costly increases. Replacing this structure isn't just an investment in infrastructure—it's an investment in the safety and economy of our communities. We respectfully urge your support for House Bill 2184.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Jennifer Euwer

Chair, Hood River County Board of Commissioners