

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2184. My name is Marla Keethler, and I am the mayor of White Salmon, Washington—just across the Columbia River from Hood River, Oregon.

The Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge is a vital connection for the people of our community. It supports workers, families, businesses, emergency responders, and travelers moving between our two states every day. For those of us on the Washington side, it's not just a bridge—it's a critical lifeline.

Washington State is proud to be a partner in the effort to replace this aging and seismically vulnerable bridge. Our two states have worked closely together over the past several years to advance the project through environmental review, preliminary design, and the pursuit of federal grants. The partnership between Oregon and Washington is what gives this project its strength and credibility—and what will ultimately make it a success.

HB 2184 represents an important opportunity for Oregon to continue that partnership by investing in this shared infrastructure. State support from both sides of the river is essential to demonstrate local and regional commitment, remain competitive for federal funding, and keep the project on track toward construction.

We urge your support of HB 2184 and look forward to continued collaboration between our two states to deliver a safe, modern, and resilient bridge for the Gorge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marla Keethler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marla Keethler, Mayor

White Salmon, WA