

Submitter: Kathy Prewitt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

I am a resident in St. Johns and urge you to support HB 2749. We need a new bridge before the earthquake (the "Big One") strikes because the current bridges will collapse and leave our community stranded. Emergency vehicles won't be able to get in and out, food won't be resupplied, we will all be cut off from critical medical help, and families will be separated. We are a lower-income, diverse community that already suffers from low air quality and threats from the CEI Hub. Knowing that this emergency could last months, we are asking you to please help fund this initial bridge design so that we are not trapped and cut off from the rest of Portland. The clock is ticking. The last time the Cascadia Subduction Zone (a 700-mile fault) unleashed its fury was in 1700, causing a massive tsunami. Research shows there's a 15 to 20 percent chance of a major quake in the next 50 years. The consequences of such an event will devastate our community.