

Submitter: Abby Dawson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Abby Dawson and I am a resident of St. Johns in North Portland. I am writing in strong support of HB 2749, which would allocate \$5 million for the design of a new bridge over the railroad cut on Columbia Boulevard.

This project is not just about transportation infrastructure—it is about life safety and community resilience. In the event of a major earthquake, the North Portland peninsula, where I and over 20,000 others live, will be entirely cut off from the rest of the city. The current bridges over the cut are expected to collapse, which would leave families separated and prevent emergency vehicles, medical assistance, food, and supplies from getting in or out.

In the worst-case scenario, if a toxic release occurs at the CEI Hub—located dangerously close to our community—we will be trapped without a way to evacuate or receive aid. This is unacceptable.

We are a lower-income, diverse community already burdened by environmental and infrastructure risks. We cannot be treated as a sacrifice zone. Funding this emergency route is a matter of environmental justice, public safety, and basic human rights.

I urge you to pass HB 2749 out of committee and support the funding needed to design and eventually build this critical emergency route. Our lives and safety depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Abby Dawson
St. Johns, Portland, OR