

Submitter: Jana Ecklund  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

Hello,

My name is Jana Ecklund and I am a resident of St. Johns. I love my neighborhood and the community my family has built here. However, my husband and I talk often about what we would do in case of an emergency such as an earthquake. My husband works on the East side of the river, so if the bridge failed, we would likely be separated with no way to reach one another. Luckily, my children now go to preschool a few blocks away so I could likely get to them, but with serious concerns about the air quality in case of a disaster, it makes me nervous to not have the option to evacuate my family. The fact that emergency teams and/or aide would not be able to reach the peninsula is even worse. We are a vibrant community but also underserved. It doesn't go unnoticed that our community, which is largely low income and more diverse than other areas of Portland seems to get the short end of the stick when it comes to funding and opportunities. If this bill passes, it would show that the city is working to keep ALL of its citizens safe. Please consider the safety of the residents of North Portland and allocate the funds to create a safe bridge across Columbia Boulevard.