

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support for Senate Bill 1182

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Travis Nelson, State Representative for House District 44, North and Northeast Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1182, which represents a tremendous opportunity for Oregon.

This legislation is not just about infrastructure. It is about justice. It stems from a resolution passed by the Oregon Transportation Commission, which called on ODOT and the Albina Vision Trust to work together to ensure that the highway cover is developed in alignment with a long-term, community-centered vision and one rooted in repair, respect, and real change for those who have been harmed.

For decades, Portlanders, many of them Black, working-class, and deeply connected to the Albina neighborhood, have fought to reclaim what was taken when their families were forced out and the original highway tore through their community. Now, after years of organizing and advocacy, the community has helped secure over half a billion dollars to build this cover.

This is not just another construction project. It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to honor the voices of those who were displaced, dismissed, and disregarded for far too long.

The Albina Vision Trust has led this movement with purpose and integrity. They have shown what community-led redevelopment can look like and have done so by holding firm to one core belief – that historically displaced and working-class Portlanders deserve to call Portland’s central city home and be part of that process.

We have a responsibility to get this right. Let us build with community, not just around it.

Thank you,

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland