



CAROLYN TOMEI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 41
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEASURE: HB 2179
EXHIBIT: H
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
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SUBMITTED BY: REP. CAROLYN TOMEI

HB 2179, Sellwood Bridge Vehicle Registration Fee bill
House Revenue Committee
Thursday, March 31, 2011
Hearing Room A; 8:00 AM

Chair Berger, Chair Barnhart, and members of the committee,

I am State Representative Carolyn Tomei, representing Milwaukie and portions of Southeast Portland. In particular, I represent the Sellwood neighborhood, home to the Sellwood Bridge.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about House Bill 2179. This measure is a technical fix to last session's transportation package, House Bill 2001; it is needed to move the Sellwood Bridge Project forward. The bill does not impact the state, nor does it give new authority to the counties, but it does give certainty around their financing plan.

It has taken years to get to this point where we are ready to reconstruct the Sellwood Bridge and it isn't a moment too soon. The bridge is functionally and structurally obsolete (rating 2 out of 100 on a bridge sufficiency scale.) The narrow two-lane bridge has a single, substandard sidewalk and no bike lanes. Buses and heavy trucks are prohibited from crossing.

I've participated in the extensive planning process with my constituents and other community members to choose a Locally Preferred Alternative and bridge design. City, county, state and federal agencies, including our Congressional Delegation, are all involved and have finally reached consensus. After many, many years of discussion, we are ready to move forward with construction in 2012.

I am also pleased that we are ready to move forward on a project that will generate jobs for Oregonians. Based on construction figures, this project is estimated to create 4,000 jobs.

We have representatives from Multnomah County here to explain the technicalities to you. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.