

Chair Read and members of the Committee

For the record, my name is Amanda Hess and I am the Legislative Aide to Oregon State Senator Chip Shields, District 22, North and Northeast Portland. Senator Shields apologizes that he is not able to testify in person today but he is currently chairing committee and unable to step away.

Real briefly, Sen. Shields would like to iterate his strong support for House Bill 3468. The Willamette Bridges are a vital component of the region's transportation infrastructure, and as Rep. Gorsek testified, we are in desperate need of a strategy to keep the bridges properly maintained so that they are safe for the public, as well as commercial traffic. The task force created by the passage of this bill will bring together leaders from Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties, as well as the State, Metro, and the City of Portland, to develop such a strategy. Sen. Shields believes this regional approach is the most effective way to pool resources and institutional capacity to address this issue and he urges your support for House bill 3468.