

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2800
COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING**

Mr Chairman and members of the committee,

At this time I am very much opposed to building a new bridge over the Columbia River.

We are broke. The state is broke. The federal government is broke.

You are going to tax us more. Today, it is announced that the price of gas is being increased by another 43 cents. Not too long ago, gas was \$1.84. No more gas taxes!

Oregon should maintain our present roads and bridges rather than taking that money for a new bridge.

I understand that Clark County Commissioners do not want a new bridge.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: I would like a new bridge and would like to save up for it. Can you help businesses in Oregon? If our economy prospers than we can afford it. Intel received a tax break. Can you also give other businesses the same treatment?

LOCAL CONTROL: If the federal government pays for the bridge, will we have control of it?

FREE MARKETS: We are a capitalist nation and believe in free markets. The invisible hand of Adam Smith, the first economist. Involve the private sector.

LIMITED GOVERNMENT: With the states and the federal government controlling the construction of the bridge there will be too much government involvement.

PERSONAL CHOICE AND RESPONSIBILITY: Are we making a wise investment at a time when we are broke.

Oregon has one of the highest tax rates. Oregon has one of the largest percentages of its citizens on food stamps. Oregon has one of the lowest school testing scores. Is Oregon's Health Plan going to work or will it be a drain on the citizenry?

I urge you to table this idea and help Oregon to prosper first. We have 2 bridges already and they are in good repair.

Respectfully submitted. Mary Innes HD 19