

MEASURE: HB 2800
EXHIBIT: 46
JT. I-5 BRIDGE PROJECT
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SUBMITTED BY: A. VASSALLO

I can't attend the upcoming hearing on Feb. 11, but I'd like to comment on the CRC.

It seems to me the original purpose of replacing the old bridge has been lost. The military came up with a term for this sort of thing: "Mission Creep". More and more things have been added to the original plan, making it far more expensive than it needs to be.

My other objection is this. Having worked in a branch office in Portland for many years, I observed that several people lived in Vancouver and commuted to Portland to avoid Oregon income taxes. Why should we Oregon residents pay more tax to make it easier for Washington commuters? They don't even want to pay their share of the CRC.

Go back to the drawing board and design a project that replaces the existing bridge with a new span that lets all river traffic pass underneath without a lift. Don't choose a more expensive design just for aesthetics. Build a separate, much cheaper bridge for light rail and bicycle traffic, if support can be found for it. Forget access to Hayden Island from the new bridge.

Anthony R. Vassallo
1533 Jordan Dr S
Salem, OR 97302