



WASHINGTON STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH THE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO

STEVE PENDERGRASS
President

DAVID MYERS
Executive Secretary

February 18, 2012

Oregon State Joint Interstate-5 Bridge
Replacement Project Committee

Dear Senators Beyer, Starr, Read, Bentz, and Members of the Joint Interstate-5 Bridge Replacement Project Committee:

The Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO (WSBCTC) have been strong supporters of the Columbia River Crossing Project since its inception. The economic benefits for our membership inherent in the undertaking, and the economic benefits as a whole for Washington state resulting from improved freight mobility and public safety, lead to our firm support of HB 2800 and I hope for yours as well.

The WSBCTC is currently working with the Washington legislature to ensure budgetary set-asides for our state's part of the investment. This funding is a priority for our state and currently included in developing transportation budgets for 2013. Last year the legislature took the first step toward funding the CRC with passage of legislation that allowed tolling for the proposed bridge and established an account for the management of tolling revenue.

Support for the CRC is widespread in our state. This year the WSBCTC and the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO reaffirmed our commitment to the project, each passing state-wide resolutions settling the CRC as a key advocacy priority.

Oregon's progress on the CRC project, as represented by HB 2800, is essential to making this critical infrastructure investment a reality and will add further impetus for Washington lawmakers as we move our transportation budget forward.

Please continue the necessary ground work for Oregon and we will partner in that effort to ensure that Washington is there to meet you halfway over the Columbia.

Respectfully,

David Myers, Executive Secretary
Washington State Building &
Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO