



February 12, 2014

Representative Tobias Read
Chair of the House Transportation and Economic Development Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Read & Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) consists of Oregon's 23 public ports. Our membership stretches from Brookings Harbor near the Oregon California border on the coast north to Astoria and then east along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla located approximately 290 river miles upstream from Astoria. Our association is in strong support of replacing the 97 year old lift span Interstate Five Bridge.

As you know, ports are an important economic driver in the communities where they exist. Our members up and down the coast and along the Columbia River depend on a system-wide efficient transportation system in order to move products, freight, and people. When one segment of our transportation system results in delays our employers and the ports themselves can be placed at a competitive disadvantage with other domestic and international ports. In today's global marketplace the speed by which products and freight can be delivered on time and at the least cost can be the difference between maintaining and attracting existing and new business or losing those opportunities.

We believe that a new bridge between Oregon and Washington is one of the major transportation challenges facing Oregon's economic competitiveness in our global economy. Furthermore, if Oregon does not make this financial commitment now it is likely that federal funds that would be available to construct this project will be lost and spent elsewhere.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has delivered everything that Treasurer Wheeler has requested. Recently the investment grade analysis showed that the tolling revenue will be more than sufficient to finance the construction of the bridge.

Oregon is well positioned to construct this vital facility. The Oregon Public Ports Association believes it is time to construct a new Columbia River Crossing. We urge your support for this critical project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Landauer", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association