

Good afternoon Senator Beyer and members of the committee. My name is Mike Bridges, I am an Executive Board Member of the Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council, here today to submit a statement from our Executive Secretary, David Myers, in support of the Oregon led Columbia River Crossing bridge replacement project.

The Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council has been working with Washington and Oregon stakeholders for more than a decade to promote the I-5 bridge replacement effort. I regret the circumstances that we find ourselves in today and apologize that Washington state politics failed to deliver on this issue. This vital infrastructure investment should not be left to Oregon alone, but we commend the Oregon legislature for finding a way to move the project forward in cooperation with our state.

The Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council support and appreciate Oregon's decision to step up and lead the project. We will do everything in our power to make sure the project is successful. Many of our affiliated crafts ^{in SW WA} ~~along the southern border~~ operate within Oregon and many from Oregon find occasion to work in Washington. On behalf of this shared workforce between our states, and the economic growth imminent on both sides of the river that will result from the replacement bridge, I ask that your committee support the CRC groundbreaking effort.

Thank you for your time.