



OREGON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

February 12, 2014

The current bridges on I-5 over the Columbia River are functionally obsolete, unsafe and unlikely to survive during a significant seismic event. Based on the support for HB 2800, enacted during the 2013 session, I think we can all clearly agree that these bridges need to be replaced and sooner rather than later.

It is extremely unfortunate that the State of Washington has been unable to enact similar legislation, including their share of the funding. I think it is safe to say that while the project is unchanged, we do not have a willing partner. As a result, Governor Kitzhaber, acknowledging the urgent need for a replacement bridge, has proposed that Oregon proceed by itself. In the meantime, the project has continued to successfully complete many of the milestones necessary to begin construction.

Yes, this new approach has raised some significant issues that must be addressed before we can move forward. Since the State of Washington is no longer a full participant in the project, the members of the Oregon Trucking Associations believe that it is essential that we find ways to manage the additional risk that will be assumed by Oregon. In addition, the State of Washington must clearly signal that it is supportive of Oregon building that portion of the project that is on their side of the river.

From the trucking industry's point of view, the project will provide significant benefits for Oregon. Today, we transport over \$40 billion worth of goods across the bridge each year. The Marine Drive Interchange is our gateway to the Port of Portland, a significant economic driver for our state. It is estimated that the project itself will create over 4,200 jobs and \$231 million in additional wages by 2030. By any measure, this is a huge economic impact for Oregon.

The members of the Oregon Trucking Associations were very pleased by the way the Oregon Legislature addressed the bridge issue during the 2013 session when you thoughtfully crafted and passed HB 2800. We remain confident that you can once again protect the interests of the citizens of this state and continue to move the project forward during the upcoming legislative session and we strongly urge you to do so.

Thank you,

Robert E. Russell
Vice President Government Affairs

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