

From the desk of Rep. Tobias Read



On behalf of Oregon's 242 cities, we urge your support for HJM 5-A.

Infrastructure serves as a backbone of livability for our state and local communities. It is critical for economic development, public health and public safety. However, the infrastructure that we all rely on every day is in desperate need of repair, replacement or significant upgrade.

Unmet needs in our state's infrastructure system include, but are not limited to, the maintenance, preservation and repair of our roads and highways; upgrades to water and wastewater systems; and reinforcements to high hazard dams and levees. Not only are these investments needed to upgrade and repair aging infrastructure; they are needed in order to ensure compliance with new state and federal regulations and to ensure resilience of critical infrastructure systems in the wake of natural disasters and other emergency situations.

In 2010 the American Society of Civil Engineers released its "Report Card for Oregon's Infrastructure". That report card gave Oregon a C- in its overall GPA for funding of critical infrastructure needs. The report identified the following:

- **\$5.6 billion in drinking water infrastructure needs** over the next 20 years;
- **\$3.8 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs** over the next 20 years;
- 431 of 7,656 total bridges in Oregon which are considered to be **structurally deficient**;
- 1,323 of the 7,656 bridges which are considered to be **functionally obsolete**.

Federal funding for infrastructure allows for lower interest rates, which results in improved affordability for local communities, especially those with higher populations of low to moderate income residents. The citizens of Oregon are simply unable to carry this financial burden alone.

We thank you for your consideration and urge your support of this legislation.