

April 1, 2019

House Rules Committee  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2974

Dear Chair Holvey and Committee members:

Please vote NO on HB 2974.

I have lived in Yamhill County all my adult life. Back around the turn of the century I served a couple of terms on the county planning commission. My wife and I farm west of Yamhill, and we *strongly* oppose this bill.

This bill creates another layer of government- one with a really bad governance structure. Marion County has more people than Yamhill, Polk, and Benton or Linn combined, but each county would get an equal vote on the district board. This is extremely undemocratic.

Worse, the bill gives this new layer of government taxing authority. Here in Yamhill County we have way more pressing transportation issues than another bridge over the river, including existing bridges that need repair. That's where our money needs to go. And if a new bridge is built south of Salem, we shouldn't have to pay for it. Conversely, if a new bridge is built by the Wheatland Ferry, why should folks in Linn or Benton County pay for it. Truly regional transportation needs should go through ODOT, not a brand new regional government.

A new bridge will have unintended negative consequences and there are easier, less costly fixes. In addition to sucking money from more pressing needs, it would create tremendous development pressure in small towns that already struggle with infrastructure funding; towns like Dayton, Adair Village, Scio or Jefferson. If more state agencies in Salem just staggered their working hours, the minimal congestion that now exists would ease or disappear.

I began by mentioning bad governance that is undemocratic. This whole bill smacks of an attempted end run around a Salem City Council vote that the sponsors didn't like. Running to the legislature to overturn a local government vote one disagrees with is simply wrong.

Please reject HB 2974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. H. ...", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sid Friedman  
14286 NW Old Moores Valley Road  
Yamhill, OR 97148