

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the House Rules Committee:

I am the co-owner of a 104 year old farm in Marion County. I believe HB 2974 will inevitably end up creating a major bridge and road through valuable EFU farm land. The fact that four counties are included indicates to me that the sponsors are looking at a bridge in rural areas as opposed to in Salem

This bill, HB2974, creates a district that can not only tax people in four counties, but plan, build, and control bridges over the Willamette River in those counties. This is an unnecessary creation of a whole new taxing authority, with few limits on its potential authority, for a problem which ODOT and the City of Salem should be solving by altering existing bridge traffic and creating more frequent better mass transit.

After many years of debate, the City of Salem rejected a new bridge. Marion County is the number one agricultural county in the state. We cannot protect farm lands if we allow Salemites to make an end run around decisions made by their city.

Most people in the four counties will not be using a new bridge in Salem. Moreover, if the bridge moves north into farm land it will not help commuters going into downtown Salem.

Protect our farm land. Don't create new highways and traffic pollution. Vote no on HB 2974.

Thank you,

Kathleen Carl

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