

April 1, 2019

To the members of the House Rules Committee Regarding HB2974:

I am opposed to HB 2974, authorizing formation of a bridge district in an area encompassing Marion, Polk, Yamhill and Linn counties.

As a farmer in the North Willamette Valley in Marion County, Oregon, I believe that HB2974 could adversely affect Willamette Valley farmers. The bridge district would have the authority to tax property owners in the 4 counties. Many farmers own many acres of property and could end up bearing a disproportionate share of the tax burden for the bridge, compared to a relatively low share of the use of the bridge.

Furthermore, some proposed locations for the siting of the bridge are in close proximity to high value farm land. The increased traffic flow resulting from the construction of a new bridge could adversely impact the farmers in those areas.

Agriculture is one of the most important industries in these 4 counties. The success and viability of agriculture as an economic driver in the Willamette Valley depends on making decisions that support our local farmers.

Without precise information about the fiscal impacts of HB2947, it is not prudent to support this method of planning and funding a bridge. Please put a stop to HB2974 and consider other avenues of addressing traffic flow on existing bridges.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to impact your decision.

Sincerely,

Theodora Schrier, Proprietor  
Fir Hollow Farm  
Pudding River Ranch  
Manton A. Carl, LLC, Member  
PO Box 149  
Hubbard, OR 97032  
[Theodora@PuddingRiverRanch.com](mailto:Theodora@PuddingRiverRanch.com)  
(503) 407-2727