

Friends of French Prairie

Friends of French Prairie
is an Oregon non-profit corporation

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May 14, 2019

To: Joint Transportation Committed

RE: SB 1021

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of this bill, as a local land use advocacy organization that not only works to preserve farming and farm land, but represents local farmers and residents who have to deal daily with the congestion and traffic safety problems generated by the outdated highway design of the interchanges directly south of the Boone Bridge, and the need for a southbound auxiliary lane on that bridge.

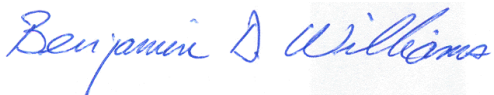
The proposed bill would address the capacity and traffic flow problems caused by the constricted lanes on the Boone Bridge and seismically upgrade the bridge as well. Local residents and local farmers going to market have to daily contend with delays due to extensive traffic weaving between lanes that cause slow-downs and accidents; the addition of an auxiliary lane provides more space for drivers to merge or change lanes in a safer manner.

The north bound auxiliary lane installed a few years ago demonstrates the merit of this proposal, and a southbound auxiliary lane would address the 4.5 hours of daily congestion, with evening commute speeds dropping to 25 mph and traffic backing-up to I-205.

We urge you to support his bill and urge a DO PASS vote on SB 1021 as amended above.

Thank you.

Sincerely



Benjamin D Williams

Friends of French Prairie