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WILSONVILLE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
A South Metro Business Advocate

**Testimony by the Wilsonville Area Chamber of Commerce
Supporting SB 1021**

May 14, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

On behalf of the Wilsonville Area Chamber of Commerce and the more than 1,000 businesses that we advocate on behalf of, I am testifying in strong support of SB 1021. This bill directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to advance the critically needed "I-5 Wilsonville Facility Plan" for the Boone Bridge Southbound Auxiliary Lane and Seismic Resilience Retrofit Project. We also support a friendly amendment by Representative Courtney Neron to this bill that would appropriate \$3.5 million from state gas tax revenue to ODOT for project-acceptance development, including preliminary engineering and design.

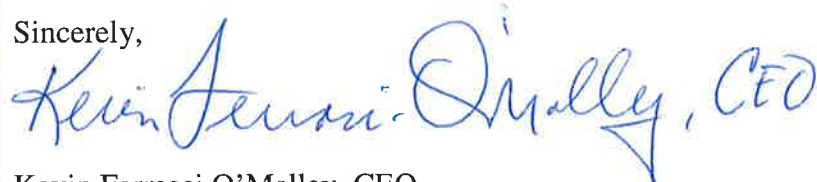
ODOT transportation studies as well as anyone who has driven the one-mile section of I-5 between Wilsonville Rd and Highway 551 that crosses the Willamette River over the Boone Bridge know that it is a major regional choke point. The Boone Bridge section of I-5 carries over 100,000 vehicles per day with nearly the same traffic volume of the "CRC" Oregon-Washington Interstate Bridge and with 33% more truck traffic. It's why during daily commute hours and Sunday evenings traffic back-ups commonly extend 5-10 miles in either direction with up to 4.5 hours of daily congestion.

The current Boone Bridge congestion and bottleneck are a major concern for small, medium and large businesses alike. It seriously impacts employee commuting time and causes costly freight shipment delays. ODOT's analysis demonstrates that this section of I-5 will continue to get a "Fail" grade unless something is done.

The I-5 Wilsonville Facility Plan with the proposed Ramp-to-Ramp Auxiliary lane to reduce congestion and increase through-put at the Wilsonville/Boone Bridge is a viable solution. Unlike some other highway auxiliary lanes proposed in the Portland area, Wilsonville public and business sentiment is strongly supportive of Boone Bridge auxiliary lane project.

The Wilsonville Area Chamber of Commerce joins with the City of Wilsonville and respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on SB 1201.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ferrasci O'Malley, CEO