



August 27, 2021

Pacific Northwest Elected Officials:

We are writing on behalf of the employees, customers and neighbors of Corwin Beverage Co. which provides over 150 jobs in Washington and Oregon. We provide beverages, snacks, and craft beer to over 750 customers throughout Washington and Oregon.

We urge you to move quickly to replace the antiquated I-5 bridge connecting Vancouver and Portland. The bridge was built 104 years ago for a different era and is far beyond its useful life. Today, the accident-prone bridge handles 140,000 vehicles a day and is considered one of the nation's top freight and commerce bottlenecks. The bridge has no traffic shoulders, a sight-impairing hump design and an extremely narrow path for bicycles and foot traffic. It is built on wooden pylons that are not anchored in bedrock, making the bridge highly vulnerable to seismic events.

Specific to our business, the aging bridge limits our ability to offer services effectively and efficiently to customer on both side of the bridge when expected time commitments are necessary to meet dock times or service before a business closes. The limitations of the I-5 bridge also impacts our suppliers who frequently miss assigned dock times for incoming delivers. When this occurs, we potentially miss the opportunity to sell product in a timely manner to our customers. Additionally, the stigma associated with the I-5 bridge has limited our ability to attract high end talent due to the bridge limitations and unexpected traffic delays while commuting.

We are encouraged that Oregon and Washington have both assigned significant funds to restart planning and that a project office has been established and is hard at work advancing the effort. Now, our federal, state, and local leaders must unite to fund and construct a practical replacement to the I-5 bridge as soon as possible. We support such efforts.

Sincerely,

Pam Marini
Director of Sales Support & Facilities
Corwin Beverage Co.