

March 23, 2022

To: Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and Members of the Committee
From: Sharla Moffett, OBI
RE: Support for the Interstate Bridge Replacement

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

For the record, my name is Sharla Moffett, director of energy, environment, natural resources and infrastructure for Oregon Business & Industry. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the March 23 meeting of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project. OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ more than 250,000 people.

We appreciate the ongoing progress in moving the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program forward. Replacing the aging bridge and addressing one of the worst bottlenecks in the U.S. is critically important to our region. According to the American Transportation Research Institute, the I-5 Bridge was ranked the 23rd worst bottleneck in the country in 2021. Replacing the bridge will vastly improve safety and provide for multimodal transportation options.

It is also essential that a new bridge move people and freight more efficiently. As you are well aware, there is traffic congestion associated with the bridge 7-10 hours a day, nearly 150,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily, and it is estimated that more than \$70 million in cargo travels over the bridge each day.

In short, the I-5 Bridge is in need of urgent replacement due to its seismic vulnerability, and its present design does not meet our region's current or projected future demands. We understand there are myriad issues the bridge design must address and the complexity of the task before the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program staff and the Committee on the Interstate 5 Bridge.

Oregon Business & Industry believes that adding capacity to the bridge is critically important to meeting future demands. The current lack of capacity and resulting congestion severely impacts our regional economy. We look forward to seeing a completed economic study on the bridge's impact to our region and how the bridge can better support our growing economy into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical infrastructure project.

Contact: Sharla Moffett sharlamoffett@oregonbusinessindustry.com