

[verbal testimony]

Greetings Chairs Beyer & McLain, Oregon & Washington committee members,

Thank you for an opportunity to speak to the JI5B Committee and for your work on this important project.

My name is Dean Suhr and I reside in West Linn, just off the southern end of I-205 in Clackamas County.

I am President of the Oregon-based Vote Before Tolls Committee, and both author & co-petitioner for the Vote Before Tolls initiative petition requiring a regional vote before tolls.

I would like to highlight that Vote Before Tolls Committee is supportive of high quality, well maintained, efficient highways, and bridges. The goal of this initiative is to encourage tolling agencies to be more transparent and informative about toll levels, longevity/sunsetting, tolling overhead, and use of funds – all of which we think will be necessary to attain a positive vote to enable tolling.

The initiative is a constitutional amendment and is retroactive to January 1, 2018.

In the case of an I-5 bridge toll – Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Columbia counties are within a 15 mile radius of the I-5 bridge and would be voting on such tolls. An I-205 toll would include Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties (no Columbia county).

Please note this initiative is not targeting any specific toll or project, and that it is also NOT a prohibition on tolls. It simply requires a vote before new tolls anywhere in the state of Oregon.

My goal today is to make the committee aware of this effort. You can learn more at VoteBeforeTolls.org

I am pleased to answer any questions now or I would be happy to return and present/discuss at a future meeting.

Thank you,

Dean

—

Dean Suhr
President, Vote Before Tolls Committee

503-664-4700 desk (no texts)
503-523-0282 – media only

Take the survey to be kept up to date: <https://VoteBeforeTolls.org>