



May 5, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I write today to support the Port of Hood River's lottery bonding request to the Oregon Legislature for \$5 million to help fund Phase 2 of the Hood River/White Salmon Interstate Bridge replacement project. The current toll bridge is a critical link for our regional bi-state economy, but it is also functionally obsolete, weight-restricted and seismically deficient. If construction of the replacement bridge is not underway by 2026, the existing bridge will need \$50 million in repairs and rehabilitation over the next 15 years in order to remain safe and operational. Phase 2 of the bridge replacement needs to begin in 2021 in order to keep the project on schedule.

Our company, Shaver Transportation, is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation 140-year tug and barge line operating a fleet of tugs and grain barges that regularly transit the Columbia Snake River System (CSRS). Of the 365 miles comprising the CSRS, the Hood River Bridge is universally recognized as one of the most hazardous transit points for danger to vessels or the structure itself due to its navigational obstruction. Our boats move barge tows under the Hood River bridge approximately 400 times each year, and our operations could be greatly impacted by how and when the bridge is replaced in the future. The port's planning and outreach have been outstanding and as river users, we are looking forward to the new design that will have increased clearances for our tugs and other waterborne traffic to safely maneuver large tows up and down the river, and navigate past the growing Hood River delta.

Shaver Transportation strongly supports the Port of Hood River's efforts to secure \$5 million from Oregon this session. This funding would match a \$5 million federal BUILD grant, \$5 million from Washington State (confirmed), and \$1.25 million from the Port to fund the \$16.25 million total cost of Phase 2 of this vital project.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Heather Stebbings'.

Heather Stebbings  
Marine Services & Government Liaison

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