



SUNRISE MOVEMENT PDX

Date: May 11, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Paxton Rothwell, Sunrise Movement PDX

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Freeway Expansions funded by HB 3065-5 and -8

Good morning co-Chairs Beyer and McClain and members of the committee. My name is Paxton Rothwell and I am an activist with Sunrise PDX and live in NE Portland.

Back in March I came to this meeting to speak in stark opposition to HB 3065 and its amendments. Today I had to return because, even with the new -8 amendment, this bill still provides an enormous amount of taxpayer money for ODOT to continually expand freeways in an era where such expansion is not only uncalled for - but immoral.

Last meeting I mentioned that I am in my 20s, scared beyond belief for the climate future that I must live through, and that I need all of you, my elected leaders, to stand up against the status quo of needless freeway expansions. We need to talk about actual solutions to our congestion issues and ways to reduce the 40% of Oregon's carbon emissions that come from the transportation sector.

I understand that it's late in the session, and know that progress toward any real solution to congestion and the climate crisis will not come this year, but I'd rather see no progress than negative progress. And that's exactly what HB 3065 is - it's progress

against a permanent solution for congestion and against any solution for the climate crisis.

And if any of you feel pressured by Speaker Kotek, the freight lobby or anyone else to push this bill through, I want you to hear this clearly - I, along with my comrades in Sunrise hubs here in Oregon and across the country, have been tirelessly volunteering our time to stand up to the status quo because we need to get the solutions to climate change right. You're worried about the next election - we're worried about the wildfires, the floods, and the fate of the planet we stand to inherit due to your negligence and cowardice. We will never stop fighting a system that seeks to strip us of our future. We need you to join us and use your position to create hopeful solutions to the perilous future we all see becoming clearer and clearer each day.

Are all of you ignorant to the fact that driving cars is the sole reason there are deadly crashes on 82nd, thick air pollution in Portland, and congestion? When traveling around the built world around us are you blind to the fact that all you see are cars and pavement? Transportation is something inherently human - we as a species have been moving for hundreds of thousands of years and in the last hundred we have sold our freedom to the private automobile. The planet does not care about how we travel - the planet cares that we keep taking and taking without any care given to the world we leave for my future or your children's future. Just because the industrialized world we have built around us in the last hundred years has worked to get us to this pinnacle of technology, we are rapidly approaching a cliff. I need my leaders to stop accelerating us toward that cliff.

If the current drought we are in is any sign, we do not have time to waste. This bill would weigh us down like rocks in our pockets as we try to tread water and would chain us to the oppressive cycle of freeway expansions and car dependence. Please oppose this bill and instead search for real solutions to congestion and the climate crisis.

Thank you for your time,
Paxton Rothwell