



February 3, 2022

The Honorable Lee Beyer
The Honorable Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4089 – Hood River bridge

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McLain and members of the committee:

Providence is a long-time advocate for comprehensive access to health care. We rely on the Hood River/White Salmon bridge to ensure patients can access the right care in emergency situations and for staff to come to work from surrounding counties. We respectfully request the Committee's support of House Bill 4089.

House Bill 4089, with the -1 amendments, and companion legislation in Washington will create a commission to develop, finance and construct a bridge to replace the existing Hood River/White Salmon bridge, which is at the end of its lifespan. The Hood River/White Salmon bridge is essential to ensuring access to health care. When the bridge is closed for construction or due to weather conditions, there is a 75-mile gap of weight restriction free crossing, resulting in delays to access to care and delivery of needed supplies. We believe this legislation increases the chance of obtaining funding needed for the new bridge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We hope the committee will join us in support of House Bill 4089.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanie Vieira".

Jeanie Vieira
Chief executive
Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital