

Hello, Please accept these comments about 2025 budget priorities for the Joint Committee on Transportation

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Imagine a natural disaster, predicted years in advance, causing one of the worst mass casualty events in world history. It could happen right here in Oregon, to the 30,000 people who live and work in the area between the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, on the North Portland Peninsula, west of the railroad cut. Every nearby evacuation route is expected to be blocked by failed bridges. The fuel tank farm across the Willamette is expected to have major impacts that could result in fires and toxic smoke. Families would shelter in place, unable to contact their families, unable to send their love one last time. And it's preventable. And it makes good economic sense and is imperative from a moral and equitable perspective. Further, the recovery of the entire region will depend on shipping and freight continuing to move in and out of the Port facilities in the area of concern.

Please ensure funding for the feasibility study and other projects required to mitigate the risks, and should be included in the transportation package you will be putting together.

JCT testimony on Fri 5/31/24 by Port, Teamsters, Site Operators, Logistics support etc talked about the key importance of Port of Portland facilities at Terminal 6. They described how \$12M invested yields \$20M return on that investment, bringing another \$8M to statewide revenue from related activities. That's a 67% ROI. Where else are you going to get that kind of deal? And how could you allow those critical assets to experience the kind of risk identified by geologists and disaster planners? We know under typical circumstances, the Port is required to maintain the economic viability to rural areas throughout PacNW and keep container services at the site. Would we want the first economic stimulus to replace their income to be removing dead bodies from the Port that no longer serves agricultural commerce throughout the PacNW? Can you allow those transportation assets to become liabilities without investing in the resiliency of the routes serving the area?

Failure to priorities work on those 3 bridges over the railroad along N Columbia, N Lombard and N Willamette effectively plans for the sacrifice of the entire community. Folks here are generally unaware of the risk they face. They're concerned with the everyday reality of surviving increasingly unaffordable cost of living. This neighborhood has traditionally experienced underinvestment. Our local high school graduation rate is about 50%. We already experience the impacts of industrial and shipping by compromised air quality, degraded roads, trains, tankers, tank farms, Nowhere else in Oregon are so many at such great risk where so few solutions are required. The problem is known. The path forward is clear. Now, you must act. Ensure that funding and match money are made available to accomplish the work needed to prevent a natural disaster from becoming a catastrophic human tragedy.

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