

Submitter: Kathy Lincoln

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2137

I am writing to OPPOSE HB 2137. This bill starts with the assumption that another bridge is needed across the Willamette River. That is a false assumption. There are alternatives to another bridge, which would be incredibly expensive, most likely be built across some of the best farm land in the state, and would encourage more vehicles rather than focusing on non-polluting transportation options. There are already local organizations and government structures that address transportation infrastructure needs, plans and financing. This bill would set up yet another group that would by-pass existing jurisdictions and report back to the state legislature, rather than working with local city and county governments. It would fly in the face of processes that have been set up for years to do local transportation planning and coordination, including Mid Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation and the Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study Policy Committee. HB 2137 would cause redundancy and confusion and should not be further considered.