

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

Dear Colleagues:

I write to you in support of HB 2137. This bill provides a mechanism for bringing together regional stakeholders to evaluate strategies for financing and constructing a bridge across the Willamette River, north of Salem, maintaining current bridges and providing a long-term solution to the issues involving east and west valley travel.

This potential bridge is a regional issue, as it connects the mid-Willamette Valley in several ways. It would provide a shorter and more convenient route between the agricultural communities of McMinnville, Newberg and Dayton on the east side of the river to I-5 and our state highways. It also provides another route to connect our communities on the west side of the river (Aurora, Woodburn, Gervais, Keizer and north Salem) to the Oregon coast.

I support this study by a task force as it brings together regional stakeholders, including county commissioners and legislators, to have a voice in the final outcome of both construction and financing.

Sincerely,

Representative Tracy Cramer, HD 22