



March 23, 2023

To: Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain  
Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis  
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

FR: Lorne Bulling, Ironworkers Local 29

RE: HB 3301 and 3323 Support

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 3301 and 3323. The Ironworkers Local 29 represents more than 1,700 Journeyworkers and registered apprentices in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our members work on projects in both urban and rural areas of our state and are a vital part of the skilled local workforce that builds critical infrastructure in our state.

We urge the committee to support both HB 3301 and 3323 to ensure that we have resilient and earthquake ready transportation infrastructure in downtown Portland. Located on an Emergency Transportation Route, the county's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project will ensure a new seismically resilient Burnside Bridge will be immediately available following the earthquake. This will allow emergency responders to support our community with rapid and reliable emergency response.

In addition to the role the bridge will play in resiliency, the building of a new Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge will provide over 6,000 job-years of employment for Oregonians between now and 2030. Additionally, the work will be done under a robust Project Labor Agreement that has outlined goals for ensuring that a percentage of the work on this project will be done by people of color, women, emerging new businesses, and registered apprentices. We feel that it is also important to note that Multnomah County has a history of meeting and exceeding the diversity goals that they set on projects—it is not merely a goal when Multnomah County sets it.

This project will help protect the region and the state from the full impacts of a major disaster, promote workforce equity and development, and ensure that the region has a reliable and future-ready multi-modal bridge for the next century. We urge your support of HB 3301 and HB 3323.