



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF OREGON

Testimony Presented
to the
Joint Committee on Transportation
In Support of HB 3323
March 23, 2023

Good evening co-Chairs Representative McLain and Senator Gorsek, I am Marshall Coba representing the American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon. ACEC represents more than 120 member firms and 5,000 employees in Oregon. We are in strong support of HB 3323 to fund the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project.

ACEC member firms are on the front line of the region's preparation for a major seismic event. We understand the investment and planning needed by individuals and by society to be prepared to adequately respond in the immediate days and ongoing months following an event. The potential devastation and lack of basic human needs will be overwhelming and will test all of us. Proper planning before the event will be crucial to our ability as individuals and communities to respond.

HB 3323 allows us, through a significant investment, to prepare the Burnside Bridge for such a catastrophic event. This bridge, after this investment and after the seismic event, may be the only surviving bridge across the Willamette River and will become a lifeline for goods, services and for the exit and entrance of citizens from the city core. We can understand and appreciate the need for this lifeline after the experiences of other regions across the globe that have been unprepared and therefore further traumatized and negatively impacted than we plan to be.

Seismic resilience is an essential feature being built into today's modern structures. The ability to withstand the major event and to begin to restore, reconstruct, and provide basic services will be much improved with this significant and timely investment as outlined in HB 3323.

We urge your support for HB 3323.

Thank you.

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