

Submitter: Brett Baker
On Behalf Of: Newberg-Dundee Bypass
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Sanchez and Steiner and members of the committee, I am Brett Baker, a longstanding member of the Yamhill County Parkway Committee, a public/private partnership of businesses, governments, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. We advocate for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, a transportation project with statewide and regional impact.

In addition to Yamhill County, the bypass has significant positive impacts on the central Oregon Coast. It is key corridor to bring tourism dollars and broader economic impact to the coast. The bypass is critical to seismic resiliency of this area of our state. "When the big one hits, this is the escape route."

I want to thank the Legislature and the Ways and Means Committee for their consistent state investments in the bypass over the years in successfully constructing the first phase of the bypass and beginning construction of phase two. These investments are already paying off by giving the cities of Newberg and Dundee their downtown main streets back, but safety and congestion issues remain on both ends of the bypass and will not be resolved until the entire three-phase bypass is built and completed.

We are at the juncture where construction on the next phase of the project can move forward if we are able to leverage major federal funding from the significant grants available through the IIJA. With an investment now of \$125 million, the Bypass will have the state match needed to apply competitively for a major federal grant to construct and complete Phase 2 of the project.

Moving this project forward will alleviate significant congestion and safety challenges faced by these communities and unlock the great economic development potential of the region that stretches from the metro area to the central coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.