

Submitter: Stefan Andersson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the forthcoming -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor provisions, finance guardrails, and major investments in mass transit. HB 2098 -2 would be environmentally and financially disastrous for the region. Spending up to \$6.3 billion on a project that would increase dependency on fossil fuel infrastructure would go completely counter to regional and state climate pledges and further incentivize sprawled urban land use that encroaches on forests and farms.

Additionally, the funding mechanism is very problematic. Issuing bonds that would eventual be paid for by increasing ODOT's debt load would jeopardize funding for infrastructure maintenance and for other pressing projects across the state. Such a large infrastructure project should have a dedicated revenue stream instead of relying on future debt.