

Submitter: Diane Meisenhelter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

My husband and I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement. We 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. At a time when we are facing climate tipping points that will endanger the lives of millions of humans and other species, it is abhorrent to be considering expanding lanes of freeways. While it is fine to seismically retrofit the bridge, we would like to see an investment in rapid public transit instead of more lanes that will cause induced demand and increased climate emissions. There are cheaper, more sustainable options that should be considered including a possible lift bridge or tunnel but \$7B for a single bridge is way too expensive as we have over 700 bridges in the state that need seismic retrofits. Plus that outrageous amount of funds should be going for public transit, non-polluting transit alternatives, as well as rapid transit systems connecting cities. While 100 cities are going fareless, our own Trimet system is proposing increasing fares which is truly shameful when we know that public transit can reduce emissions, reduce congestion, reduce health harming pollution, and should be a much lower costing option as it thus benefits us all. Funds could be used to help transit go fareless. Please support the forthcoming-3Amendment instead of the -2 Amendment insanity that is being proposed that will contribute to climate chaos and be way too costly.