

Submitter: Janet Steele

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Albany Area Chamber, our 465 member businesses, and their 23,000 employees, I am writing in support of the -2 amendment to HB 2098.

The 2023 Legislature has the opportunity to make a major impact on the traffic congestion between the Rose Quarter and I-5 bridge by passing HB 2098. With over 13,000 trucks using the bridge over the Columbia daily and thousands more cars, the current bridge is a massive source of congestion that increases the costs of goods, increases the emissions of cars and trucks, and creates great frustrations for all of us due to the loss of time spent in traffic delays.

We urge the Legislature to act now to maximize our chance at federal dollars in a bipartisan manner. The I-5 bridge traffic congestion affects all of us, and efforts to politicize the bridge for ideological goals unnecessarily divide Oregonians. We need a larger bridge with enough space to meet today's traffic needs and future needs for years to come.

The time to act is now, we urge you to support HB 2098.