

Submitter: Michael Schuller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members,

My name is Michael Schuller and I live in Portland, Oregon. My family lives in SW Portland, I work at OHSU and my wife works at Hillsboro Medical Center (Tuality).

I believe the poor condition of our public infrastructure needs to be addressed. I am in support of replacing the I-5 bridge to keep this a safe corridor between Washington and Oregon. However, I do not agree with the proposed replacement plan nor the funding plan that will limit Oregon's ability to address other critical infrastructure. This project should not include building additional lanes. Widening the highway will not solve congestion problems and is too expensive. We need to move beyond a transportation system dependent on private automobiles. ODOT should find an alternative that would create a safe bridge replacement, support transit and active transportation, not increase vehicle miles travelled, and not burden the state with excess debt.

How we have done things does not need to be how we continue to do things. I would like to see the Oregon legislature develop an innovative solution to this problem to make our state and communities a better place. Thank you.

Michael Schuller