



April 27, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement Funding (HB 2098-2)

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Boquist, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the committee:

The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) is the force behind the regional tech industry – supporting entrepreneurs, connecting peers and decision makers statewide, and helping establish the Northwest as a global hub for innovation. We work with over 500 tech and tech-enabled companies throughout Oregon, ranging in size from one-person startups to some of the largest tech companies in the world.

TAO appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2098-2.

The Interstate 5 Bridge is central to the success of Oregon's economy and success. It is a necessary connector of people, communities and goods. More than \$70 million worth of freight crosses the bridge daily. The benefits of the Interstate 5 Bridge are shared statewide—as are its challenges. Currently, the bridge is functionally obsolete and experiences heavy congestion from seven to ten hours on most weekdays. And the bridge is seismically unsound and faces significant risk during a natural disaster.

As TAO strives to establish the northwest as a global hub for innovation, we see the Interstate Bridge Replacement project as a vital investment to help ensure Oregon's success. The State has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to replace the bridge through a Federal match of \$3 billion. However, for the project to remain eligible, Oregon must approve \$1 billion for the project this session.

TAO urges the committee to support funding for the Interstate Bridge Replacement project through the passage of HB 2098-2. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Newberry".

Skip Newberry  
President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon