



April 27, 2023

Honorable Chairs Frederic and McClain
Joint Committee on Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Frederic and McClain and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, the largest chamber in Washington County, comprised of over 825 members and representing nearly 72,000 jobs, is writing you today to respectfully ask your committee's support HB 2098, which will fund the I-5 Bridge and maintain efforts to expand the bridge's capacity.

The I-5 bridge connects Oregon to Washington and serves as an important infrastructural component to Oregon's economic prosperity. Repair of the bridge is greatly needed to ensure the protection and security of the thousands of people who use the bridge daily to travel between Oregon and Washington. General safety, including earthquake sustainability, are legitimate concerns for motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Moreover, more than \$70 million worth of freight crosses the bridge daily, with congestion predominately on the West Coast freight route. Washington has already committed \$1 billion for the project. As an additional incentive, this legislation will apply Oregon's existing bonding capacity and contains no new taxes or revenue.

In today's public hearing, legislators can provide essential assurances to secure Oregonians' current and future economy. We are grateful for your leadership and thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna Palm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Deanna Palm
President/CEO