

Submitter: Josh Hetrick
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 Josh Hetrick, and I live and work in Portland. I support building a right-sized I-5 bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because as-written this legislation jeopardizes a right-sized bridge replacement. I support the -3 amendment that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with explicit pro-labor and community benefits provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

Improving the I-5 bridge for seismic resilience is important, but we must do so within our means. Bridge replacement should happen within the existing footprint, and not displace or damage the communities it runs through. This also includes spending within our means, with real accountability through independent oversight. Blank checks from general funds are not fiscally responsible and drain funds away from other critical projects and needs. This bridge must also enable sustainable, resilient transportation. Transit, biking, walking, and rolling should be front and center in both design and funding — they must be easy, safe, and convenient.

The -3 (pronounced “dash three”) amendment from Representative Pham’s office helps address these concerns, and I urge the committee to consider it as soon as possible.

Thank you Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and committee members, for your time, consideration, and work on this measure.