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To: The Oregon State Legislature

RE: Follow-through with 2017 Transportation Package and improvements to the I-5 corridor from the Rose Quarter to the Interstate Bridge

Several years back, a lot of work was done by the legislature to invest in Oregon's traffic infrastructure. There is much need around the state but we came to a common agreement of key areas in Oregon that need significant improvement. There was also a lot of involvement and support by the public to get this initiative through. Unfortunately, the heavy focus placed upon improving the I-5 stretch between the Rose Quarter and the Interstate Bridge has had little follow-through. The fear of by-passing a primary focus of this transportation bill seems to be coming true.

While this is a Portland-area project, it impacts the entire state and its economy. Oregon citizens lose if this project is not given the priority it was originally promised. With bottlenecks in these areas, it increases the stress upon this area. Traffic delays create costs to consumers through delayed deliveries, increased fuel consumption and increased labor costs. It also increases the pollution of cars and trucks that idle through traffic jams. In short, our inaction and continued delays to fix these areas end up hurting the Oregon citizens who rely on their government to serve their best interests. Increased pricing on products and services, as well as increased pollution and inconvenience, does not serve the people represented by the Oregon Legislature.

Now that the State of Washington is onboard with the Interstate Bridge initiative, we now have the opportunity to fix that problem and take advantage of federal funding to help complete this project. With parts of the bridge over 100 years old, including wood supports that are not in direct contact with bedrock, we have a major safety issue as well. The delay of Washington to join this effort several years back has already increased the cost of this project by billions of dollars. Lowering the priority of this project only increases the cost of the project that needs to come at some point for safety reasons as well as economic reasons. Consider the cost to the Seattle Metro area by waiting too long to get their light rail project going. Let's not repeat their same mistake by pushing down the priority of this Interstate Bridge project.

Both the Rose Quarter and Interstate Bridge projects are interconnected. Portland is growing and this issue impacts companies and consumers who live outside of Portland. Even if their goods/services come from outside of Portland, the companies providing these valuables have to travel through Portland. This is not a party issue – it is a people issue. Funding is a challenge that presents problems for us now. Ignoring it and blaming the other party creates an

even bigger problem. It's time to stop fighting and blaming each other. Come together and serve the people.
Please.

Respectfully,

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