

Submitter: John Carr  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB2098

Dear Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, Co-Vice-Chairs Boshart Davis and Boquist, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

I'm a resident of Southeast Portland and would like to express my opposition to the -2 amendment to HB 2098. While I fully understand the desire for a grand solution to replace the current I-5 bridge, the people of Oregon cannot afford the unchecked costs and accelerated emissions a sprawling project would entail. To overcommit, overbuild, and overspend would be a failure of creativity and responsibility.

I would however support the -3 amendment that strikes a more reasonable, thoughtful balance among safeguarding this key transportation link, adhering to our State's climate goals, providing union jobs, and investing in mass transit. I urge you to direct IBR to explore smaller bridge design options and to choose a plan that pollutes less, protects Portlanders, and is fiscally responsible.

My family moved to Oregon for its vibrant, livable, human-scale communities. A bloated bridge project would be a step backward for those neighborhoods closest to the project and, as a consequence, for Portland and Oregon as a whole. We need a new I-5 bridge now, not a massive highway project that, whenever it's completed would still only represent failure.

Sincerely,  
John Carr  
SE Portland, 97206