

Submitter: Ron Bowers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB2098

Co-Chairs McLain and Frederic and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Bowers. I live outside of Creswell in the southern Willamette Valley. I am the second generation to own a trucking company, having been in business since 1976. I presently employ 15 people, all earning a family wage for pay.

I haul wood by-products, some going to Longview, Washington. As you well know, that entails operating on I-5. Any job I bid on I have to take into account trying to get through the greater Portland area. Most times, this includes beginning traffic delays in the Wilsonville area that get worse the closer we get to the I-5 bridge. Once we cross the I-5 bridge, traffic, while still somewhat heavy, seems to flow safer and better.

I-5 is the main west coast freight corridor and we, as the public and commercial traffic, need a new bridge. Our costs are higher, and emissions are higher due to all the delays. This adds to the so-called climate change. We need a plain and efficient bridge.

If you can get HB2098 with the 2 amendments passed, as I understand it, part of the cost to replace the I-5 bridge will be funded by the Federal Government. It would be a lost opportunity if this bill isn't passed.

Please support House Bill 2098 and the 2 amendments.

Thank you,
Ron Bowers