

Submitter: Lincoln Hess
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB2098

I support replacing this bridge, but oppose HB 2098 -2, because this legislation as currently written jeopardizes a right-sized Bridge Replacement, right now. I support the -3 Amendment (and the policy recommendations offered by the Just Crossing Alliance) that ensures this replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with a right-sized design, explicit pro-labor provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit.

I moved to Portland because it was hailed throughout the country for being extremely walkable and pedestrian friendly. Turns out that was just compared to other major US cities which are awful. I deeply want to see this city heal and grow to all it can become, but spending this much on a single project will tie the region up for decades to inefficiency and fossil fuel emissions. I strongly urge this body and ODOT to envision what PDX could become, the example this city could set for the entire country by prioritizing mass transit and pedestrian safety. Furthermore, I find it ludicrous that it is proposed to be paid with general obligation bonds. The housing crisis is so extreme and we want to spend billions to subsidize travel to another state? I think this body needs to focus on solving the true issues that face our communities instead of being distracted by big lobby money.