

Submitter: Laney Ellisor
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 Laney Ellisor. I live in North Portland in what used to be the Albina Neighborhood. I work for a philanthropic foundation supporting efforts to reform the criminal legal system and end mass incarceration in America. I am also an attorney barred in Oregon.

I support replacing the interstate bridge but oppose HB 2098 -2 and -4 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 the replacement bridge project moves forward smoothly with a right-sized design, explicit pro-labor provisions, financial guardrails, and major investments in mass transit. We need a clean bill focused solely on the replacement of the bridge so we secure immediate federal funding and prepare to hold statewide conversations about the rest of our transportation system in future years.

We must (re-)build our communities while building this bridge. In particular, the project should invest in North Portland, establishing a Community Benefits Agreement, and promote environmental and disability justice by prioritizing methods of transport other than driving.

Thank you for your time and work on this measure.