



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

211 2nd Street, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: 541-386-1488

May 4th, 2023

Senator Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative McLain, Co-Chair
Senator Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Boshart Davis, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Transportation Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3622 – Local Bridges

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, Co-Vice Chair Boquist, Co-Vice Chair Boshart Davis and Members of the Committee

I am writing to support HB 3622 and its funding request for the replacement of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge. The Port and its partners seek to protect one of the most important transportation infrastructure assets in the Columbia River Gorge and address the region's top economic development priority. This funding is critical in replacing the antiquated bridge.

This bridge currently provides a valuable link between two regions and replacing it will not only provide benefits economically; the people who rely on this bridge for business and recreational purposes will see quality of life benefits as well.

I strongly support the Bi-State Working Group's effort to replace the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge, without Oregon's commitment this session there will be further delay and increased costs associated with the replacement. The bridge's sufficiency rating score of less than 10 out of 100 is a strong indication that there is no time to waste. Thank you for your work and leadership. Please give strong consideration of our request to fund the replacement of the Hood River Bridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Blackburn, Mayor
City of Hood River, (Ore.)

Cc: Senate President Wagner
House Speaker Rayfield
Senator Steiner
Representative Sanchez