



May 15, 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,

Providence is a long-time advocate for comprehensive access to health care. We rely on the Hood River/White Salmon and Burnside bridges to ensure patients can access the right care in emergency situations and for staff to come to work. We respectfully request the Committee's support of House Bill 3622.

House Bill 3622 is essential to ensuring access to health care. When the Hood River-White Salmon bridge is closed for construction or due to weather conditions, there is a 75-mile gap of weight restriction free crossing, resulting in delays to access to care and delivery of needed supplies. There is no way to know which of the hospitals in Multnomah County will be functional after a Cascadia event. The Burnside Bridge will be the only way to move people to access lifesaving care on either side of the river after a major earthquake.

Additionally, we believe this legislation increases the chance of obtaining funding needed for new bridges.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We hope the committee will join us in support of House Bill 3622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanie Vieira".

Jeanie Vieira  
Chief Executive, Hood River Service Area  
Providence - Oregon