



February 6, 2024

To: Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Rudy Salakory, Conservation Director  
RE: **Support for Senate Bill 1512 and House Bill 4110 – Bridge of the Gods seismic analysis and strengthening project**

Dear Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Joint Committee On Transportation,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 1512 and House Bill 4110.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge urges you in the strongest terms to support and pass one of these two bills to provide the necessary resources to strengthen the Bridge of the Gods. This bridge is one of only a handful of Columbia River crossings available to residents of the Columbia River Gorge. It is a critical piece of infrastructure for the health, safety, and economy of residents of the Gorge. Its age and design are not consistent with today's seismic and economic realities and must be addressed.

Friends is a nonprofit organization with approximately 5,000 members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the resources of the Columbia River Gorge. Our membership includes hundreds of people who reside within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. It is at the core of our mission to make sure the communities of the Gorge have safe and are able to enjoy the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Scenic Area while being able to enjoy a quality of life in this great wonder.

Friends urges you to allocate \$6,000,000 to the Port of Cascade Locks for the Bridge of the Gods seismic analysis and strengthening project as outlined in SB 1512 and HB 4110.

Sincerely,

Rudy Salakory  
Conservation Director  
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