



February 9, 2024

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek  
Joint Transportation Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs McLain, Gorsek and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) consists of Oregon's 23 public ports. Our membership stretches from Brookings Harbor near the Oregon California border on the coast north to Astoria and then east along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla located approximately 290 river miles upstream from Astoria. Our association is in support of HB 4110 and SB 1512, bills that will allocate \$6 million in general funds to the Port of Cascade Locks to fund seismic resilience and bridge preservation studies on the Bridge of the Gods.

As you know, ports are an important economic driver in the communities where they exist. Our members up and down the coast and along the Columbia River depend on a system-wide efficient transportation system to move products, freight, and people. When one segment of our transportation system results in delays our employers and the ports themselves can be placed at a competitive disadvantage with other domestic and international ports. In today's global marketplace the speed by which products and freight can be delivered on time and at the least cost can be the difference between maintaining and attracting existing and new business or losing those opportunities.

The bridge of the Gods is a critical crossing for Gorge communities on both sides of the river and that fact is made more evident during wildfires, storms, and other disasters. Thanks to ongoing maintenance performed by the Port of Cascade Locks, the bridge is in good working order and not in need of a full replacement. This funding would pay for studies examining the seismic resilience of the bridge and identification of key upgrades aimed at making the bridge more resilient and extending its usable life. Studies will also explore the feasibility of adding safe pedestrian and bike crossing, an element of the project that enjoys broad public support and would spur recreational interest and further economic development in Cascade Locks.

The OPPA asks that you support this funding request and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Landauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark J. Landauer  
Executive Director  
Oregon Public Ports Association