

Submitter: Brian Stout
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: SB1556

SB1556 – US Highway 30 Study Bill
2/13/2024 In Person Testimony

Good evening, Chair Gorsek, Chair McLain, Vice Chairs and Committee Members. For the record my name is Brian Stout, State Representative for House District 31 which covers all of Columbia County, Parts of Rural Washington County and a few other small sections in Multnomah and Yamhill County.

Thank you for your time today and for the discussion here on Senate Bill 1556. I am pleased to be here in full support of this study bill that uniquely impacts the residents of the communities in my home district. Highway 30 runs directly through the heart of Columbia County and the city where my property and home are located - I hear and see it from our back deck every day.

I only mention this because I am a firsthand witness to the fire, police, medical and rescue vehicles that literally respond to a call every day along the stretches of this highway that follows along the Columbia River, winding and twisting its way up to the coast. We can all see the constant social media post on local citizen pages for our communities detailing yet another vehicle accident and far too many of them are fatal in nature. The homemade roadside memorials are a stark reminder of the ongoing dangers we face while traveling through this part of the state. The very large number of heavy equipment trucks, semi-trucks and log trucks adds a multiplier to already tricky conditions and unsafe driving practices.

Additionally, our residents deal with constant road closures along Highway 30 due to landslides, down trees, flooding and other natural occurrences unique to the area.

I am asked on a regular basis is there anything we can do to address these problems? The answer here today can now be "Yes." This bill is the first step and, in my opinion, long overdue. I strongly ask for your support and passage of this measure here in front of us today.

Thank you.