

Submitter: Maria Lamb
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

We are writing to strongly encourage the Joint Transportation Committee to fund the bridge across Columbia Boulevard so the St Johns community in Portland has a chance to access safety when the time comes. We have lived in the St Johns neighborhood for over 20 years and have always been worried about what would happen to our family and neighbors if disaster strikes and we have no way of bringing in help or leaving to find safety.

Currently there is no escape route if and when a big earthquake strikes or a train with hazardous material derails nearby. There are thousands of people at risk in this area and it's a ongoing concern for all of us, once we understand the risks for our community. Without this emergency route funded, we will likely not have access to medical help, emergency trucks, food or water--and if it's a toxic cloud scenario, our whole community will be trapped here.

This is not a problem that will go away without the necessary attention and funding. There has already been a lot of work done and killing this bill in committee instead of moving it forward would send a strong message that the people in St Johns are not important or worthy of investment.

We've seen it happen here and in other communities across the country--beautifully diverse, vibrant communities torn apart by lack of investment. We urge you to please pass this bill out of Committee.

Thank you,
Maria Lamb & Margot Jones