

From: [REDACTED]
To: [D13-SMB-D13-BRIDGES](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Coast Guard public comments on Interstate Bridge
Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025 1:02:22 PM

Recent atmospheric river events have caused rapid and significant increases in Columbia River water levels, temporarily reducing the effective vertical clearance beneath any fixed-span structure.

Under these high-water conditions, a 116-foot fixed span would provide **even less navigational clearance** than advertised, further constraining the ability of taller commercial and recreational vessels to transit the river.

Unlike the existing movable spans, which can accommodate fluctuating river stages, a fixed bridge cannot adapt to elevated water levels—making navigation impacts more severe during flood events **that are becoming increasingly frequent**. This reality underscores why reduced fixed clearance presents a heightened and foreseeable risk to meeting the reasonable needs of navigation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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