



P.O. Box 55
101 Mill Street, Suite 100
Ridgefield, WA 98642

January 2, 2026

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard District Northwest
915 Second Avenue, Rm 3510
Seattle, WA 98174-1067

Submitted via: d13-smb-d13-bridges@uscg.mil

Re: Navigation Impact Report comments related to the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program
General Bridge Permit Application and Reevaluation of the Preliminary Navigation Clearance
Determination

Dear Commander,

It is critical to our region, state, and nation that the Interstate 5 Bridge be replaced as soon as possible.

Congestion associated with the existing moveable span regularly causes delays that impose real and escalating costs on regional mobility and economic vitality. On behalf of the Port of Ridgefield, I submit the following comments for the U.S. Coast Guard's consideration as part of the General Bridge Permit and the reevaluation of the Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project. These comments are provided to confirm that the navigation needs of our heavily maritime-dependent region are met with a vertical navigation clearance of 116 feet.

The Port of Ridgefield is a real estate development port located on Lake River, a tributary of the Columbia River, 14 miles north of the existing I-5 Bridge. The Port develops land and facilities that support employers, workers, and families in Ridgefield and throughout the region. Our economic activity supports 2,200 jobs across Clark County and generates approximately \$160 million in annual labor income.

Although the Port of Ridgefield does not use the Columbia River to move cargo ourselves, we recognize that navigation clearance decisions affect the broader movement of freight. The river functions as part of an interconnected network of waterways, highways, and rail, and reliability in one mode supports the performance of the others. Our tenants—including manufacturers, an HVAC company, a trade school, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife—rely on the I-

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5 Bridge, the I-5 corridor, and the Columbia River to move people, receive raw materials, and deliver products to market.

Replacing the existing moveable bridge with a fixed-span structure providing 116 feet of vertical navigation clearance would significantly improve reliability for everyone and everything that needs to move across and underneath this bridge. A fixed span would reduce congestion, support efficient freight and passenger movement, and help ensure this critical multimodal transportation hub continues to function effectively for our region and for the western United States.

The IBR Program's extensive public process to develop and evaluate bridge configuration alternatives provided substantial opportunities for technical review and stakeholder engagement. This process appropriately balanced the project's purpose and need while identifying and mitigating potential impacts.

We understand that the IBR Program has coordinated closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to confirm that the Corps' Dredge *Yaquina* can safely clear a bridge configuration with 116 feet of vertical navigation clearance and continue maintaining the federal navigation channel. We also understand that the IBR Program has modeled anticipated changes in river levels over time and has entered into formal agreements providing adequate mitigation for entities determined to be adversely affected by a fixed-span option with 116 feet of clearance.

The safety, seismic resilience, and multimodal improvements identified in the IBR Program's Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement are expected to deliver a strong and lasting return on investment for the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program's General Bridge Permit and confirm that the Port of Ridgefield's needs are met with a fixed-span bridge providing 116 feet of vertical navigation clearance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ethan Perry".

Ethan Perry
Executive Director
Port of Ridgefield

Cc: Interstate Bridge Replacement Program