



**THOMPSON**  
METAL FAB

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Steven M. Fischer  
Bridge Administrator  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Northwest District

23 December 2025

RE: U.S. Coast Guard Public Notice PN-04-25 - Proposed replacement of the I-5 Portland to Vancouver Bridge, across the Columbia River, river mile 106.5, between Portland, OR. and Vancouver, WA.

Mr. Fischer,

Thompson Metal Fab, Inc is a complex steel fabricator, located at the Columbia Business Center in Vancouver, WA. We are the largest manufacturer upstream of Interstate Bridge and the effected business with the greatest history of barge transportation. We have spent the last two years negotiating with the IBR team for a suitable mitigation that will allow us to manufacture our large structures downstream of the proposed 116' clearance. The agreed mitigation will preserve the jobs and manufacturing capability in Clark County and the Portland Metro area. We are also members of the community and recognize the need for a bridge as proposed by IBR. My goal was to reach an agreement that met the needs of IBR and the community while at the same time preserving the jobs, company and manufacturing capability of Thompson Metal Fab, Inc. I believe through the mitigation agreement we have accomplished that goal. I am also grateful to the US Coast Guard and their team for their support in this process.

I have attached my previously submitted letter to your office.

Best Regards,

John B. Rud  
CEO  
Thompson Metal Fab, Inc