

January 7, 2026

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

RE: Comments on the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program Navigation Impact Report (NIR)

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

Dear Commander,

I am writing on behalf of Game Day Kids, LLC to formally express our support for the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Program's proposed fixed span bridge option across the Columbia River, providing 116 feet of vertical navigation clearance.

From our company's perspective, a fixed span bridge offers significant operational and economic advantages. It allows for both our customers and employees to get to our workplace efficiently and safely.

The existing I-5 bridge is a critical transportation link for our regional economy, yet it is outdated and no longer meets the demands placed upon it. Full replacement of the bridge and its surrounding interchanges is both necessary and prudent. Continuing to pursue incremental fixes—such as seismic retrofits, deck replacement, painting, and structural upgrades—would be costly, disruptive, and ultimately insufficient compared to a comprehensive replacement solution.

We commend the IBR Program for its thorough evaluation of multiple design alternatives and its effort to balance navigation, safety, cost, and regional mobility. In our view, a fixed span bridge best serves the long-term interests of the region by providing a safer, more reliable, and more cost-effective design. We also recognize that formal agreements have addressed the limited number of businesses that require greater vertical clearance, and that a lift span offers little additional economic benefit given that the 43-foot dredged navigation channel ends west of the current bridge and that there is minimal developable shoreline upriver.

With construction costs escalating and congestion caused by the existing lift span continuing to create significant and growing economic impacts, timely advancement of the I-5 bridge replacement is essential for our region, our state, and the nation.

Thank you for your leadership and the extensive effort devoted to planning, designing, and funding a transportation facility that will serve the region for generations to come. We appreciate your consideration.

Regards,



John Swartz
Owner – Kiddie Academy Salmon Creek

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