



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

January 9, 2026

Subject: Support for 116-Foot Fixed-Span Bridge for Interstate Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Commander Brendan J. Harris,

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) project and respectfully express our strong support for a fixed-span bridge with 116 feet of vertical clearance. Washington County is home to the state of Oregon's Silicon Forest which is a national leader in export of advanced technology microchip, biopharma, medical and associated manufactured products with markets located throughout the world. Distribution of these products relies upon real-time and time sensitive accessibility to key international airports distributed along the I-5 corridor from Vancouver British Columbia to LAX.

Interstate 5 is a critical freight corridor for our region and the broader West Coast economy. A fixed-span bridge provides the reliability and predictability that freight-dependent businesses require. Introducing a movable span would effectively place a "stop light" on I-5, creating delays, uncertainty, and operational risks for trucking, logistics, and time-sensitive supply chains that rely on uninterrupted interstate travel.

We are also concerned about the additional capital, operational, and long-term maintenance costs associated with a movable span. The IBR project already represents a significant public investment, and adding avoidable complexity would increase costs without delivering commensurate benefits to freight mobility or regional commerce. We appreciate the advancements made recently by the Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Transportation with river users to create the opportunity to consider a fixed span bridge.

A 116-foot fixed span balances navigation needs with the imperative to keep Interstate 5 moving safely, reliably, and efficiently. We urge the Coast Guard to support a fixed-span determination that protects freight movement, economic competitiveness, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Harrington, Chair

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners

**Board of County Commissioners**

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