



COLUMBIA  
CORRIDOR  
ASSOCIATION



Business Leaders Building Community

September 17, 2018

Senate President Peter Courtney  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE, S-201  
Salem, OR 97301

House Speaker Tina Kotek  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE, Rm 269  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

The Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area's business, freight and commerce community believes it's time for legislative leaders from both states to pursue renewed conversations to replace the hyper-congested, obsolete and accident-prone I-5 bridge.


We believe now is the right time to pursue conversations as both states prepare for a new fiscal biennium. Oregon's landmark Keep Oregon Moving package included provision for a mega projects committee. Meanwhile, Washington's 2017 SSB 5806 measure to support I-5 bridge replacement indicates there is broad bicameral, bipartisan support to begin these conversations. An inventory of past work has been completed and a process established in SSB 5806 – which seeks participation by both Oregon and Washington legislators – to determine our next steps in development of a new I-5 bridge by December 15. Further, the FHWA is expecting Oregon and Washington to reimburse the \$135 million in funds they granted toward the Columbia River Crossing project unless we can show that some related transportation project is underway.

Traffic congestion from the outdated I-5 bridge comes at a steep economic, environmental and social price to our region. In fact, one area of great concern to our customers is our inability to meet shipping schedules which lead to production impacts throughout the supply and manufacturing chains. The I-5 bridge is both our primary funnel and our number one chokepoint in the region and will significantly worsen as we welcome around 50,000 new residents to our metropolitan area each year for decades to come. These delays are a primary contributor to the Portland-Vancouver USA region earning the dubious honor of being the nation's 12th worst congested city, already costing \$1 billion in annual lost productivity. This will only grow through our inactivity which will discourage future employment and commerce and place an even greater burden on our social fabric.

We vastly prefer pursuing a highly functional I-5 replacement bridge now rather than making substantial investments in deferred maintenance, seismic reinforcements and reconciliation for past planning work on the existing spans.

At the end of the CRC process, the project stalled in the Washington Legislature, but that body now has bipartisan, bi-cameral support to advance a new I-5 bridge, and passed legislation directing them to join with their Oregon peers to do so. We stand ready to facilitate and support you and all of our legislative leaders from Oregon and Washington in pursuing the replacement of the I-5 bridge as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier, Executive Director  
Columbia Corridor Association



Ron Arp, President  
Identity Clark County

**ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS:**

AECOM  
AGC Oregon-Columbia Chapter  
Amesta Media  
Bridgeton Neighborhood Association  
Calbag Metals Co.  
Capacity Commercial Group  
Catworks Construction  
Chappelles Towing, LLC  
Clark College  
Columbia Corridor Association  
Columbia Machine, Inc.  
Columbia River Economic Development Council  
Country Financial - Bob Cosgrove Agency  
Creative Computer Solutions, Inc.  
Davidson & Associates Insurance  
Evergreen Memorial Gardens  
EVRAZ  
Food Express, Inc.  
Frank Adams Wholesale Florist  
Fuller Group, CRE  
GeoDesign, Inc.  
Great Western Malting  
Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce  
Green Transfer & Storage Co.  
Hart Crowser, Inc.  
High Tech Council SW Washington  
I-5 Bridge Replacement Group Vancouver  
IBEW Local 48  
Identity Clark County  
International Air & Hospitality Academy  
Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington  
LSW Architects  
MacKay Sposito  
McCracken Motor Freight, Inc.  
Paul Montague Tax Preparation, LLC  
PBS Engineering and Environmental  
Port of Camas-Washougal  
Port of Portland  
Port of Vancouver USA  
Portland Business Alliance  
Realvest Corp.  
Riverview Community Bank  
Southwest Washington Contractors Association  
SW Freight and Commerce Task Force  
Tapani, Inc.  
The Scott Horenstein Law Firm  
The Vancouver Clinic  
Tidewater Barge Lines

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