



April 12, 2019

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: HB 5005 – Oregon Highway 99W/18 Bypass

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

Please find this letter in support of HB 5005 as it pertains to the Oregon Highway 99W/18 Bypass (Newberg-Dundee Bypass). This regional project has great significance to all western Oregon and a completed bypass would be extremely beneficial. Just as the entire state of Oregon is impacted by the congestion in the Portland metro area, the entire region stretching from Washington County, Yamhill, and Marion Counties, to the Central Coast counties of Tillamook, Polk, and Lincoln are impacted by the severe congestion on Oregon HWY 99W from the Portland metro area to the intersection with Oregon HWY 18 and beyond.

HWY 99W has become a well-known bottleneck among tourists, freight transportation, commuters, etc. Without the full completion of the bypass, these traffic impacts will continue to result in significant increased congestion and traffic accidents. Tragically, there have been many fatal accidents along the McKay intersection due to the unfinished bypass and increased traffic.

The HWY 99W/18 Bypass is designed to relieve the intense congestion issues. The first phase of the bypass is operational, but the remaining seven miles to complete the bypass have yet to begin. With the first phase being completed, business travel from the region west of Newberg and Dundee to the Portland metropolitan area has been significantly enhanced and travel from McMinnville to Portland International Airport can usually be accomplished in an hour. The full benefits of the phase one project will not be experienced without the completion of the entire project. We urge you to invest \$150 million in state funds to ensure the completion of this vital project for western Oregon. It should be noted that Congressman Peter DeFazio has made this project a priority and will match state dollars.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let us know if we can be helpful moving forward.

Sincerely,

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State Representative Bill Post – HD 25

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State Representative Courtney Neron – HD 26

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State Representative Ron Noble – HD 24