

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2013

Lynn Peterson
Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504

Secretary Peterson:

We write you today regarding the future of the I-5 bridge over the Columbia River. With the recent announcements by Governors Inslee and Kitzhaber closing the Columbia River Crossing offices, it is time for all interested parties to come back to the table and put forward a plan that both meets the needs of the region and enjoys the support of our constituents.

We remain committed to a long-term solution that will modernize and upgrade the current transportation corridor across the river. As the largest interstate serving the West Coast, connecting Canada to Mexico, I-5 is critical to interstate commerce and Americans' ability to travel throughout the region. Any plan must focus on safety and the movement of highway and river traffic.

In the meantime, we must ensure that the current bridge is safe for the thousands of commuters that cross it each day. We ask that the agency provide us with its assessment of the safety level and potential hazards for the I-5 Columbia River Bridge, as well as options to upgrade and improve the bridge to mitigate whatever risks may exist. We stand ready to fight for funding to ensure that peoples' safety is protected and that the bridge is not compromised by an earthquake or other catastrophic event.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to working with you on improving the safety and efficiency of our existing infrastructure.

Sincerely,


U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, 3rd Congressional District


Sen. Don Benton, 17th Legislative District



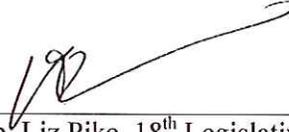
Sen. Ann Rivers, 18th Legislative District



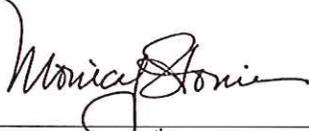
Rep. Paul Harris, 17th Legislative District



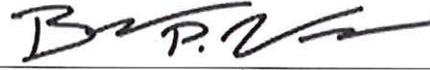
Rep. Jim Moeller, 49th Legislative District



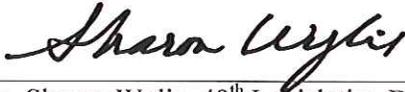
Rep. Liz Pike, 18th Legislative District



Rep. Monica Stonier, 17th Legislative District



Rep. Brandon Vick, 18th Legislative District



Rep. Sharon Wylie, 49th Legislative District