

**From:** [Jim McCauley](#)  
**To:** [Columbia River Crossing](#);  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** CRC comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 20, 2008 3:20:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [CRCHBAJune 20.doc](#)

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Please accept HBA's comments in regard to our support for a new bridge over the Columbia.

Jim McCauley  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
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Home Builders Association  
of Metropolitan Portland

June 20, 2008

Columbia River Crossing  
c/o Heather Gundersen, Environmental Manager  
700 Washington Street, Suite 300  
Vancouver, WA. 98660

**Subject: CRC project**

Dear Ms. Gundersen, CRC project staff and CRC Task Force Members:

Home Builders Association of Metro Portland (HBA) is proud to offer our support for the CRC and design selection that makes sense for Oregon and Washington businesses and citizens. HBA represents over 1,400 companies including builders, developers and other associated industries that support home construction in this metro region.

We believe the success of this region's future hinges on resolving transportation planning issues associated with freight mobility, business development and providing better traffic alternatives for citizens of this region. As you know the construction industry in Oregon and in this region are among the primary economic drivers for the local and state's economy. In order to maintain this industry in the future and aid in the recovery of a down market we need to see the investment in transportation infrastructure and this bridge proposal is critical to the overall future economic wellbeing of this region.

We understand that the attention of the vote scheduled for June 23, 2008 is focused on overall support of the bridge project, but we are also offering support for a future decision regarding the Marine Drive interchange. HBA along with other businesses uses the Expo Center annually with events that draw over 50 thousand people to just our two show events. HBA has enjoyed a 65-year relationship with the Expo center and O'Laughlin family. We want to continue this work for the next 65 years and with an Expo facility that works. HBA is asking for consideration of the alignment and its impact on existing buildings and transportation routes once support for the bridge construction is finalized.

The first step is to gain approval for the bridge construction and multi-modal component and HBA is on board with this critical first step. Next in line are some of the physical design options and we are confident you will be able to find a solution that makes sense for existing businesses and lessens the impact on the Expo facility.

Sincerely,

Jim McCauley  
VP for Government Affairs  
Portland Metro HBA