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From: <u>Lila Leathers</u>



To: Draft EIS Feedback;

"Leathers, Kathy"; harry-leathers@teleport.com; steve-

leathers@teleport.com;

Subject: I-5 Bridge - Portland to Vancouver

Date: Tuesday, July 01, 2008 3:25:46 PM

Attachments:

To Whom It May Concern:

This bridge is unsafe and overloaded all of the time. What will we do when it falls down?

Transportation is critical to our future to improve the business climate, create jobs and generate tax revenues.

Interstate 5 is a critical trade corridor and has been designated by the US Department of Transportation as one of six "Corridors of the Future" recognizing its critical importance in the transportation network and to the US economy.

The forecast for freight volumes moving in and out of the Portland/Vancouver region are expected to double in 30 years.

This project proposes a solution for one of the most congested segments of our nation's highway system.

A replacement bridge will improve navigation for marine traffic on the Columbia River as well as eliminate the need for bridge lifts.

Our economy will suffer without a strong transportation system that has the capacity to move people and goods quickly and efficiently.

Congestion in the Portland/Vancouver area is pushing distribution centers out of the region and leading to the loss of family-wage jobs.

Failure to invest adequately in transportation improvements will result in a potential business loss of 6,500 jobs and \$844 million annually by 2025.

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Thanks for taking the time to read my comments. This bridge is BADLY NEEDED.

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