

For Immediate Release

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Labor, Business and Environmental Leaders Applaud Recent Developments on the Columbia River Crossing

Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon Business Association and Environmental Leader Jon Isaacs Release Joint Statement

The Integrated Project Sponsors Council Staff Recommendations – which include the City of Portland-sponsored review and guidance by URS Corporation – are currently in front of the Columbia River Crossing Project Sponsors Council (PSC) and include crucial elements that are fundamental to the project's success. The PSC has been instrumental in getting this collaborative resolution to where it is today, and we applaud recent movement toward adoption of a plan. We hope they move this project forward so that the CRC can secure funding and put people to work. The success of our region depends on this project.

“That representatives of the business, labor and environmental community have come together to support the advancement of this project signifies a breakthrough in the process. We will do what we can to assist project stakeholders to arrive at a solution in time to receive necessary federal assistance for the CRC,” said Ryan Deckert, President of the Oregon Business Association. “The efficient flow of goods and services through this major artery is critical for Oregon businesses to stay competitive.”

The new bridge must balance the needs of the diverse groups that will be impacted by the project, and this most recent collaborative resolution does just that. Its thoughtful consideration of concerns that have been brought up throughout the process has resulted in a broad base of support that should successfully carry it through to completion.

The Oregon AFL-CIO and OBA join a number of environmental leaders in calling on the PSC to consider the URS recommendations. Jon Isaacs, Executive Director of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, said, “The recommendations in the URS report lay out a vision for a 21st century bridge which will meet the needs of the economy and provide new transportation options at the lowest cost to taxpayers.”

It is vital, though, that we act quickly. We have had sufficient years of study and enough proposals to know what will work for our communities and our region as a whole. Now we need to approve a plan and get people to work.

“Our economy is hurting. People are out of work. And we need a new bridge. The Columbia River Crossing meets the needs of our regional economy and has support from our elected officials,” said AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain. “Once approved and funded, the CRC will be a boon to our economy in the near term, and also ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure to continue to thrive well into the future. Now is the time to move forward.”

Together, we call on the Columbia River Crossing Project Sponsors Council to approve this collaborative resolution, on our elected officials to continue to stand behind this project, and on our Congressional delegation to do all that they can to quickly move the Columbia River Crossing, and our region, forward.