



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak
From: Rep Khanh Pham
Date: June 25, 2023
Subject: Vote explanation for HB 5005-A

Dear Chief Clerk,

I strongly support so many of the investments that I see in HB 5005-A. It's so important that we are appropriating \$250M so we can more than match WA state's appropriation which will help us get in line for federal funding for the I5 bridge replacement.

I was deeply surprised however that we are authorizing the full \$1 Billion to come from General Fund supported bonds, in the next 4 biennium, through 2031. And really the next 30 plus years, as we make payments on these bonds plus interest.

Colleagues, our Transportation system has historically been paid for through transportation dollars (gas tax, weight mile tax, federal transportation grants, and from federal transportation grants). **It's unprecedented for Oregon to pay for transportation infrastructure out of our General Fund.**

In testimony for HB 2098 the IBR policy bill, we heard from teachers who talked about teaching in crowded classrooms with 39 teenagers, broken HVAC systems, extreme heat or cold, and lack of air circulation. They talked about teaching in stairwells when the wings of a school were shut due to asbestos, classrooms with buckets on the ground to catch drips from leaky roofs, and schools with mold issues. GO Bonds are a critical source of funding for retrofitting school facilities.

In a housing crisis, we need to also prioritize our General Fund bond dollars to build affordable housing to support families and keep kids safe. General Fund bonds are also needed to fix water systems, seismically retrofit our schools, and address other critical needs.

We can't ask our students and communities to live with cuts and live within our budget means, and not ask our freeway megaprojects to also live within our transportation budget. This does mean that we will have to make hard choices about which transportation projects to prioritize across the state, but that's our responsibility to do as legislators. .

Legislatures can't bind future legislatures, so we still need to appropriate this money in future sessions. I look forward to continuing conversations about how we can fund a 21st century transportation system with transportation dollars, while also protecting our General Fund-

supported bonds to make sure we have enough money for the sewage and water systems, seismic retrofits of school buildings, and all the other critical needs our communities face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Khanh Pham".

Representative Khanh Pham\