

KHANH PHAM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 46



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

To: Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak
From: Rep Khanh Pham
Date: June 25, 2023
Subject: Vote explanation for SB 1049-A

Dear Chief Clerk,

I voted No on SB 1049-A to flag my deep concerns with Section 35, which repealed Sections 3, 11, 12 and 13, chapter 4, Oregon Laws 2013, which were important fiscal guardrails in the Columbia River Crossing.

These sections were the "sideboards" that were adopted by the Oregon Legislature after long debate in 2013 over the CRC, when the state's contribution was to be \$450 million out of the State Highway Fund. These provisions:

- capped the total cost of the project
- required federal funding be in hand in advance of construction
- required Washington's contribution to be fully committed
- required an investment grade analysis and Treasurer's approval of the project's financial plan before bonds could be issued.

With SB 1049 Section 35, the Legislature strips away every one of these safeguards.

These sideboards were an integral part of legislative approval of the project in 2013, according to then-Speaker (and now Governor Tina Kotek). See http://www.wweek.com/portland/blog-29792-legislative_leaders_explain_crc_vote.html.

The last-minute legislative repeal of existing fiscal guardrails is deeply troubling. ODOT has a history of significant cost overruns, and the legislature needs every tool at our disposal to ensure this agency will successfully deliver a replacement bridge on time and on budget.

Sincerely,

Rep. Khanh Pham, OR House District 46