

Salem Mayor and City Council

Keizer Mayor and City Council

Marion County Commissioners

Polk County Commissioners

Polk County Planning

Re: Salem River Crossing Proposal – Case File CA 16-04

October 12, 2016

I am speaking as a rural resident and small business owner in Polk County who uses our bridges for both business and personal trips. We do not need a third bridge in Salem The financial, ecological and even social costs are far greater than any benefit.

Recently I left Portland at 3:30 pm and spent 30 minutes bumper to bumper (no accident, just traffic) getting out of Portland. At exactly 5 pm I joined the line of cars on commercial, coming off the Parkway to cross the bridge. At 5:08 I was across the bridge and in free flowing traffic going west. Half a billion dollars, tolls and increased taxes etc. for 8 minutes – No Thanks!

A recent University of Michigan article includes the following (link below)

About 87 percent of 19-year-olds in 1983 had their licenses, but more than 30 years later, that percentage had dropped to 69 percent. Other teen driving groups have also declined: 18-year-olds fell from 80 percent in 1983 to 60 percent in 2014, 17-year-olds decreased from 69 percent to 45 percent, and 16-year-olds plummeted from 46 percent to 24 percent. <http://www.umtri.umich.edu/what-were-doing/news/more-americans-all-ages-spurning-drivers-licenses>.

I have two children with families and NO CAR. They live very happily with bikes, public transportation and their own two legs.

I have testified on this subject before, always with substantive comments, offering other less costly solutions. I have never felt heard, I have never been asked even one question, there has never been any real opportunity for dialog with city bridge supporters. So now I will speak from my heart and my gut!

You bridge folks are on the wrong side of history. When your grandchildren ask you what you were doing as climate change became more and more threatening you will get to say – “I built a big expensive new bridge so more people could drive more cars and trucks while many folks asked for bikeways and bus service and livable communities.”

I personally see this as similar to President Bush’s Iraq war. Somewhere down the line, as cost overruns add up, neighborhoods are disrupted and people drive less all

you third bridge supporters will be scrambling to figure out how you can credibly say you were actually against the bridge fiasco.

I sincerely hope this does not come to pass and you are moved to find a better solution. We and future generations will thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Deumling

<http://www.umtri.umich.edu/what-were-doing/news/more-americans-all-ages-spurning-drivers-licenses>.

About 87 percent of 19-year-olds in 1983 had their licenses, but more than 30 years later, that percentage had dropped to 69 percent. Other teen driving groups have also declined: 18-year-olds fell from 80 percent in 1983 to 60 percent in 2014, 17-year-olds decreased from 69 percent to 45 percent, and 16-year-olds plummeted from 46 percent to 24 percent.