

**COLUMBIA CORRIDOR**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

21 April 2009

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Wu  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation:

The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) would like to express support for the \$400 million request for the Columbia River Crossing project (CRC) in the surface transportation authorization legislation.

The Columbia Corridor is Oregon's largest economic corridor and home to 2500 businesses employing 60,000 people. The Columbia Corridor Association strongly supports this authorization request because the Columbia River Crossing is vital to the economic health of our region.

There are many reasons for a new crossing, including the fact that many of the pylons for the current bridge are only supported by sand; substandard designs lead to unnecessary traffic problems; a new crossing would bring light rail to Vancouver and a first-class bicycle crossing; and the current crossing is a drain on the economy and a hazard to safety.

CCA has fought hard to make sure the Columbia River Crossing incorporates new transportation philosophies. Active management through tolling will encourage mass transit use and insure this crossing meets the regions needs for the next century.

We acknowledge that the project is expensive and has some vocal opponents. However, the overwhelming majority of Portland residents fully understand that the cost of not improving is far too high.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier  
Executive Director,