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U.S. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Chairman Defazio and Ranking Member Graves
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

I am requesting funding for the I-5/SR 503 Interchange Area Improvements Project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The project sponsor for this project is the Washington State Department of Transportation and the project is located at Woodland, Washington Interstate 5 and Lewis River Rd, 98674.

The funding is designated for rebuilding the existing ramp terminals and the SR 503 and East CC Street intersection. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be provided at intersection locations and through the interchange area that currently experiences significant congestion during peak periods due to increased traffic volumes, closely spaced traffic signals, and number of access connections on SR 503 near the interchange area.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have several benefits including the improvement of mobility and safety at an interchange. The I-5 and SR 503 interchange in Woodland experiences significant congestion during peak periods due to increased traffic volumes, closely spaced traffic signals, and number of access connections on SR 503 near the interchange area. Traffic currently backs up on the northbound offramp approaching the mainline and on SR 503 and the city streets to the point of blocking adjacent intersections and access points. To address these traffic issues, I support a signalized interchange as supported by the Woodland City Council and Woodland Chamber of Commerce. This project will improve mobility and safety by rebuilding the existing ramp terminals and the SR 503 and East CC Street intersection. This project will also defer the need to fully reconstruct the interchange to address capacity constraints.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress