

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
3RD DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1602

□ 1107 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3536

□ GENERAL O.O. HOWARD HOUSE  
750 ANDERSON STREET, SUITE B  
VANCOUVER, WA 98661  
(360) 695-6292

WWW.JHB.HOUSE.GOV

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senator  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your engagement on an issue vitally important to Southwest Washington -- Oregon's plan to implement potentially unfair tolls at the I-5 and I-205 bridges. I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring my legislative amendment on this issue is included in the final transportation funding bill for Fiscal Year 2018.

I appreciate Senator Murray's efforts to obtain representation for Washingtonians on Oregon's tolling advisory committee. It is helpful for Washingtonians to have a voice at the table. But as you know, seating three Washingtonians on an advisory committee of 15-20 Oregonians is far from a complete solution.

Oregon's new transportation law gives that state the authority to toll the Interstate bridges at the state line, which are overwhelmingly used by Southwest Washington commuters, and divert the revenue to pay for projects elsewhere in the state. This would be fundamentally unfair to our constituents, who have voiced their strong opposition to this proposal. I recently conducted a survey in Southwest Washington to hear our community's opinion on Oregon's proposal and quickly received 8,500 responses. Nearly 90% of participants opposed Oregon's plan to toll those highways. Further, this new plan undermines the cooperative regional effort to find a solution for congestion on the I-5 bridge.

The House of Representatives successfully passed a fiscal year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bill that included my amendment to prohibit the use of funds for establishing tolls on Interstate Route 5 or Interstate Route 205 for the next fiscal year. This prohibition would give Oregon time to develop its tolling plan in a deliberative and transparent

manner. Further, maintaining this prohibition is the only solid assurance we can provide Washingtonians that no unfair plan can be pushed through without their input being taken into account.

I believe we have been sent a clear message from Southwest Washington communities. As we work to conclude federal funding legislation, it is imperative that we secure a hold on tolling on I-5 and I-205 for Fiscal Year 2018. Please join with me in this effort.

Sincerely,



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress