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July 20, 2017

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor of Oregon
900 Court St. NE, 160
Salem, OR 97301

Matthew Garrett, Director
Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capitol Street, NE MS 11
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown and Director Garrett:

It is my understanding that the State of Oregon is developing a plan that may include the imposition of tolls on Interstate Highways 5 and 205. In the interest of avoiding any future conflict, I write to make my position clear.

I do not oppose the concept of a fee paid by the users of a resource and allocated toward the construction, maintenance or upkeep of that resource. However, any attempt to levy tolls on I-5 or I-205 at the Washington State line, the lion's share of which would be paid by Washington commuters, in order to pay for infrastructure improvements south of Portland that would rarely be used by the vast majority of those paying the tolls, would be unfair in the extreme. Oregon has no right to make Southwest Washington an unwilling piggy bank for Oregon's infrastructure projects.

Since both I-5 and I-205 are Interstate Highways, there is a federal interest. As a Member of Congress, I will defend Southwest Washington residents from any unfair tolling plan using every appropriate means at my disposal.

Sincerely,


Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress