



Business Leaders Building Community

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Sean Philbrook, 360.695.4116

sean@iccbusiness.org

BUSINESS LEADERS APPLAUD BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO RESTART I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

VANCOUVER, Wash. – (April 17, 2017) – The business leadership group Identity Clark County expresses its appreciation to the Washington state legislature for approving a bill restarting a process for replacing the century-old outdated and accident-prone I-5 bridge.

The bill, SSB 5806, received an overwhelmingly strong concurrence vote today from the Washington Senate after amendments from the House, with a vote of 44-4, and now advances to Governor Inslee for his signature. It establishes a joint Oregon-Washington legislative action committee to begin a process towards project development for a new Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge.

Instrumental in advancing the measure were regional legislators from both the Senate and House, including; Sens. Annette Cleveland, Ann Rivers, and Lynda Wilson, and Reps. Paul Harris, Monica Stonier, Brandon Vick and Sharon Wylie. It also earned support from transportation committee chairs from both chambers, Sen. Curtis King and Rep. Judy Clibborn.

Identity Clark County stated, “We appreciate the bold bipartisan leadership southwest Washington legislators and transportation committee leaders in moving toward a restart. They took a giant first step toward improving the safety of our people, environment and society, and the health of our region’s economy. We look forward to supporting our legislative leaders as they begin conversations with their colleagues in Oregon to define and propose a safe, practical bridge project, while opening necessary conversation about other transportation improvements between the two states.”

The I-5 restart process is the top priority for the Clark County Transportation Alliance, which Identity Clark County coordinates. The antiquated bridge is the only remaining drawbridge on a major interstate, has clumsy merge lanes and no safety shoulders. It is one of the worst commerce-choking pinch points for truckers nationwide and is facing impractical maintenance investments.

Identity Clark County is a 24-year-old privately-funded business organization comprised of business leaders who seek to build a stronger community. The organization has about 70 investors, with an office in Vancouver and a government relations presence in Olympia.

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