



LEGACY HEALTH COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Legacy Health is a major health care provider in Oregon and SW Washington, admitting more than 56,000 people annually to its six hospitals and treating more than 500,000 people in outpatient visits. The nonprofit organization employs nearly 10,000 people. Last year, Legacy provided more than \$171 million in care to the uninsured and underinsured through charity care, Medicaid and other government programs.

As an organization committed to good health for our people, our patients, our community and the world, we realize that health encompasses more than health care. Good health is dependent upon access to quality education, quality jobs and quality health care. We recognize that the Columbia River Crossing Project is critical to the continued positive economic health of our region.

With operations on both sides of the Columbia River in SW Washington and Oregon, our perspective of the Columbia River Crossing Project is regional. Our organization depends on efficiently moving supplies, personnel, and patients back and forth between the two states we serve.

As the population has grown, and trade has increased, the Interstate Bridge has become increasingly congested creating a major choke point. The bridge is antiquated and is the only drawbridge in the nation serving a major interstate thoroughfare. This congestion and interruption of traffic flow has increasingly led to accidents. The resulting trauma cases are often seen in our Level One Trauma Center, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. Failure to address the need for an updated Interstate 5 Columbia River Crossing further compromises the health of our two states and the region.

Any successful business or organization understands the need to continually reinvest in infrastructure and upgrade of equipment and technology to remain viable. The Interstate Bridge crossing is crucial to the infrastructure of our two states, the region and nation. It is critical for us to work together now to reinvest in this infrastructure and the future.

For these reasons, Legacy Health strongly supports and endorses the Columbia River Crossing Project.

3/15/10

www.legacyhealth.org