



# POLK COUNTY

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**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Sheriff Bob Wolfe**

Criminal Division  
Civil Division  
Marine Patrol Division  
Dog Control  
Emergency Management

February 9, 2007

Project Bridge Watch  
c/o Polk County Board of Commissioners  
Polk County Courthouse  
850 Main Street  
Dallas, OR 97338

Dear Friends,

I have lived in Polk County for nearly 35 years, reside in Independence, and commute frequently to Salem. Like many residents of Polk County and the greater Salem area, I have witnessed the increased traffic that the existing bridges attempt to support. My personal and private use of these bridges has become increasingly frustrating with delays and closures in and out of Salem.

As the Sheriff of Polk County, I have significant concerns regarding public safety issues and the Willamette River bridges. The need to move critical emergency equipment across the bridges, as well as the lives and safety of our community, has been compromised. Due to the amount of traffic forced to use these bridges, whenever a single incident creates lane closures - or in some cases complete closure of the bridges - not only is emergency equipment unable to access or cross the bridges, the surrounding community is compromised by the back-up of traffic.

When peak traffic times are hampered by a minor incident on the bridges, there is clearly too much overflow of traffic, which creates back-ups on the feeder routes that block cross traffic that is not even using the bridges. It's time for a third bridge to allow traffic to by-pass the Salem downtown area.

I respectfully request that you consider this letter as my strong support and consider me on board to assist in the immediate forward progression of another Willamette River Bridge crossing for Polk and Marion Counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Wolfe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Wolfe  
Sheriff of Polk County