



***Letter printed in The Oregonian op-ed section on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in response to the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 article "Roads seen as a way to recovery"***

**Stimulus package: Just add water**

It is great to read that our senators, governor and mayor are supporting infrastructure projects for a federal stimulus package ("Roads seen as way to recovery", Nov. 7). They do so for the right reasons. These projects will put people to work now and provide benefits for years to come.

Just one ingredient is missing from their mix: water. This region's economy is highly dependent on international trade. Navigation projects will not only stimulate the economy, they will be good for the environment.

Navigation is the most fuel efficient and least polluting mode for moving cargo.

Here are just a few of many worthy projects. Complete the Columbia River channel deepening. Repair the jetties at the Mouth of the Columbia River, Tillamook Bay, Newport and Coos Bay. Stronger jetties will keep trade lines open and protect the lives of mariners and fishers. Rehabilitate the Lower Monumental Navigation Lock on the Snake River. This will keep Northwest products flowing to Portland and the other Columbia River ports for export into foreign markets.

Adding water to road, bridge and rail projects will ensure that our region gets maximum long-term benefit from any economic stimulus package.

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