

Hi, My name is La Donna Cox and I own two small businesses in Oregon City. I am a Veteran, a wife, and a mother. I am a member of the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce and a member of their Executive Board. Oregon City is my home.

My retail store, Geeks and Games is a destination store. We sell board games, card games, role-playing games, but most importantly we have open table spaces to allow individuals and families to gather and interact in a positive way.

As most here, we oppose the I205 tolling. It will hurt all businesses, but more so it will hurt small businesses. I have customers who travel from Eugene, Seattle, and Eastern Oregon to attend tournaments that are also fundraisers which support multiple non-profits in the area.

There are many game stores like mine, but I am the only one of my type in the Clackamas County area. We support the emotional needs of our customers and the physical needs of our community. Most of my customers under the age of 18 are neurodiverse and find solace in my business, a difficult thing for any parent to find for their children. Parents are willing to travel across town just to bring their children here. This is also a Veteran owned business and as such we have many Veterans who travel the distance just to attend events at Geeks and Games.

Our customers travel from the Portland metro area to attend multiple events during the week. Having a toll will drive my customers to other game stores because of the cost...a cost we STILL don't even know the amount of.

In the past year we have seen a decline in sales due to the rising costs of everything from gas to groceries, to wage increases and thefts. We still have the same amount of customers, but the sales per person have decreased. It's about to decrease even more!

How I lose money:

- Customers spend an average of \$35.94 per transaction per day
- Most customers visit at least twice a week
- On average customers spend 2-4 hours playing games per visit
- Customers will visit local businesses to grab food and snacks (a loss those businesses will feel soon)
- NOW add the cost of the toll they will be charged in both directions

So, customers will either spend less in my store to make up for the toll, or they will take their business to another game store, or worse yet, purchase from Amazon.

My second business will be hurt as well. I own Family Safe Training and teach concealed carry classes, basic firearms safety, women only classes specializing in women with trauma, and assist students in purchasing firearms.

Students from all over the Metro area come to Oregon City to attend the classroom portion and then we travel to ranges that will require us to access I205. This is another added cost for both myself and my students to pay. I average approximately 10 students per class when we go to the range.

How I lose money:

- Students pay the toll to attend my classroom portion
- Students pay the toll to then attend a firearms range
- Students pay the toll to look at firearms to purchase
- Students pay the toll to then return home
- I pay the toll to go to the range
- I pay the toll to accompany students so they can look at firearms
- I pay the toll to return home

On top of being a business owner, I'm that mom and wife I mentioned earlier. I also take care of my elderly mother-in-law who lives with me. Doctor's visits, grocery stores, birthday parties, appointments, visits with family and friends, outings and date nights....its not only exhausting finding those great sales and deals on things, but now it's out of our price range.

Thank you for your time,

La Donna Cox

**Owner:**

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