

Dear Committee Members,

I oppose any increase in gas taxes. I am a senior citizen and native Oregonian on a fixed income and living off my savings. An increase in gas taxes would increase my living expenses in an already inflationary environment.

Every time in my life that I have voted for or supported an increase in gas taxes in Oregon or Multnomah County, the funds appear to be diverted to other uses than promised, such as building traffic dividers, fancy crosswalks or redoing sidewalk corners multiple times rather than repaving our streets as promised, or money squandered on projects like the Columbia Crossing feasibility with hundreds of millions spent and nothing concrete accomplished, or the Abernathy Bridge being a hundred million dollars overbudget, and the Rose Quarter I-5 project being overbudget by 4 times. All this is happening while Oregon has gas prices that are about a dollar more than I have seen in New Mexico and Texas recently, much due to our current local and state gas taxes. I demand accountability for waste, mismanagement and strongly oppose increases in gas taxes. I also demand that our current gas taxes be used efficiently for maintaining roads, as they are currently higher than I have seen in other states.

Sincerely,
Cliff Stephens
Portland, OR