Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Committee,

Thanks for your huge efforts to gather public input about the upcoming omnibus bill. I live in Portland. I bike for most of my transportation needs within the city.

The 2025 Transportation Package should focus on:
- fiscal responsibility
- safety
- maintenance
- seismic resilience
- equity
- reducing slow travel due to congestion
- meeting our climate goals

We need alternatives to the gas tax to achieve adequate transportation funding. No one likes to pay fees and taxes, but we all want to get around smoothly and safely so we have to pay for it. This will probably need to include a road user charge, tolling, a tire tax, and fees on retail delivery companies.

I favor indexing the gas tax to inflation, and increasing it now to be more in line with our neighboring states.

Expand the OReGO program (road user charge) so a driver's investment in the highway system is proportional to their annual driving miles.

Increase the payroll tax (now 0.1%) to more effectively fund public transit via the STIF.

Rather than pouring scarce money into the failed solution of widening highways, we need to reduce congestion by mode-shifting to public transit and safe walking, biking and rolling.

Require large highway projects to have secured full funding prior to starting construction and to show that they will reduce climate pollution.

Do not bond for large highway projects by obligating the General Fund.

Design tolling of large projects as congestion pricing to reduce traffic flows at peak times.

Do not impose higher fees or taxes on electric vehicles than on gasoline vehicles, as this is counterproductive to electrifying our fleet.

It is a tough task to craft a sustainable funding model for the entire transportation system, balancing many pressures. But we need to grasp this opportunity to meet the needs of the next fifty years and to prevent the worst impacts on our environment. I appreciate your weighing my testimony in your deliberations.

Joseph Stenger MD