

Submitter: Bagrat Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

As an Oregon husband, voter, and taxpayer, I'm outraged by yet another round of tax hikes. Raising the gas tax to 46 cents a gallon, imposing EV road charges in 2027-2028, increasing vehicle fees, and hiking the payroll tax to 0.3% is piling on families already struggling. PGE's rates are up 49.3% since 2021, with another 5.5% hit coming in 2025. Auto insurance premiums jumped 11% in 2024, and home insurance is up 15% due to wildfire risks. Our roads are a disgrace-78% of city streets rate fair or worse-and schools rank a pitiful 31st nationally. Yet, the Oregon Department of Transportation pays DEI administrators like Wesley Serena Stoudamire over \$248,000 annually, while planning to cut 483 jobs. That's not priorities; that's waste. Speaking of waste, Oregon's spent \$1.7 billion on homelessness since 2021, yet streets are still lined with encampments-Multnomah County alone had 5,398 homeless people in 2024. Programs like Interstate Business Solutions, which hired homeless workers to clean 272,000 pounds of garbage off highways, got slashed when ODOT's \$4 million contract wasn't renewed, leaving 40 workers jobless. It's a bloodbath in Oregon-taxpayers lose money, and vulnerable people lose jobs. Meanwhile, the governor's wife holds a state role with a paycheck, funded by us, while we're nickel-and-dimed. It feels like royalty, not leadership. Over 131,000 people fled Oregon in 2023, outpacing new residents, because we're taxed into oblivion. A 2022 survey said Oregonians believe 56 cents of every state dollar is wasted-\$210 million alone went to PGE's data centers. Enough. Cut high-dollar DEI jobs, stop frivolous spending, and prioritize roads, schools, and real homelessness solutions. Vote no on these taxes. Thank you