

Submitter: Richard Burke  
On Behalf Of: Libertarian Leadership Council  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Dear Chair Wagner, Chair Fahey, and Members of the Committee,

I offer this testimony in opposition to the legislation proposed within LC2. The package of large tax increases contained within LC2 represents an unnecessary and expensive cash grab that working Oregonians can ill afford. The tax hikes and new taxes proposed are regressive in the extreme. LC2 represents yet another signal from Salem saying "STAY AWAY" to those who might want to establish and/or expand business investment in Oregon. LC2 also represents yet another reason for current Oregonians and Oregon businesses to leave our state.

Speaker Drazen has pointed out that any necessary additional funds can be obtained via Oregon's Emergency Board without legislative action. This is what we should do to get us through the legislative interim. In the meantime, the legislature should look at policy changes that would reduce road maintenance costs associated with Oregon's transportation infrastructure. Such options include but are not limited to the repeal of prevailing wage laws, privatizing the maintenance of part or all of our state highways system, and conducting a performance audit of ODOT to restore confidence among Oregon citizens that public dollars intended for transportation are well spent.

It has been said that with 4,500+ ODOT employees throughout Oregon, it should be possible to maintain Oregon's roads with hand tools. While I don't necessarily agree with that, the larger point is that need to find ways to get more performance out of each tax dollar before trying to obtain more tax dollars. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Richard P. Burke, Member  
Board of Directors  
Libertarian Party of Oregon