

Submitter: KENNETH S. GRAY  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or LC 2  
Topic:

Dear Governor Kotek and Oregon Legislatures,

Over the course of my fourteen years as an Oregon resident, I have struggled to provide for my family, which is now five of us, under the ever-increasing tax burden placed on my hard-earned income. My wife and I have worked hard to create a home that could function on one income. Now, due to the mismanagement of state taxpayer dollars on a plethora of social programs, not to mention the lack of federal funds available to our state because of the sanctuary policies put in place to protect many criminals, we are not in a position to raise taxes on families, especially those like myself who make less than \$70,000 a year. My wife and I have learned to live frugally and within our means, without taking on debt for items we simply can live without. Our liberal politicians need to learn to do the same. As my children grow into adolescence, they eat more, grow out of their clothes quicker, and rely on more technology to learn about the world around them in our home-school classroom. These added expenses are sure to challenge our ability to afford any kind of vacation, let alone an extended weekend adventure.

It would be heartless of you, and detrimental to our state, by placing even more of a financial burden on families like mine who literally pinch pennies to make ends meet. Our state is losing out on opportunities created by wealthy investors by continuing to tax, tax, and tax some more. Both large and small businesses are leaving our state in droves because of the large tax burdens placed on them by extremely liberal governors and legislatures who simply DO NOT know how to manage, let alone evaluate, programs where taxpayer dollars are constantly wasted and funneled back to them in election kickbacks.

It's time for my voice to be heard, for my rights to be considered, and for each and every so-called public servant to reconsider their standing in our state government. You are here to serve us, not the other way around. I will NOT stand for the continual raising of my already unfairly taxed income just so politicians can save face. People like me, families like ours, deserve to be treated fairly. On another note, this special meeting scheduled on labor day weekend only solidifies my view that certain state politicians don't care about families being together for an extended weekend as well as allowing all families the right to be heard as they are enjoying a three day weekend.

The madness has to stop. The Oregon government needs to tighten it's belt, consider

the families who are already struggling to keep their heads above water, and learn to live within their means rather than viewing taxpaying citizens as piggy banks.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth Gray