

Submitter: Angelita Sanchez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or LC 2
Topic:

Chairs and Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angelita Sanchez, and I am a resident of Sweet Home, in Linn County. I am a small business owner and a lifelong Oregonian. I am here today to respectfully but firmly oppose the proposed transportation tax being considered in this special session.

At its core, this tax is yet another burden on working families and seniors, rural communities, and small businesses who are already struggling with high costs of living, inflation, and rising fuel and utility prices. Transportation is not a luxury — it is the backbone of our economy and daily lives. Whether it is farmers moving crops, loggers hauling timber, truckers building roads, or families commuting to work and school, every Oregonian will feel this tax directly.

I have three main concerns:

1. Disproportionate Impact on Rural Oregonians.

Rural families drive longer distances for work, healthcare, and basic services. We do not have the same access to mass transit as urban residents. This tax punishes rural communities who have no choice but to rely on personal vehicles and long commutes.

2. Strain on Small Businesses and Jobs.

Small trucking companies, family farms, and independent contractors are already carrying heavy regulatory and financial loads. An additional payroll transportation tax raises operating costs, which either forces layoffs, price hikes for consumers, or pushes businesses to the brink. For many, this is not sustainable.

3. Lack of Trust in Government Spending.

Oregon has passed transportation packages before, with promises of repairing roads, maintaining infrastructure, and addressing congestion. Yet we continue to see deteriorating highways, deferred maintenance, and questionable allocations of funds. Before adding new taxes, the legislature should show accountability for how existing transportation revenues are spent. An audit is prudent and necessary.

In short, this proposal is the wrong approach at the wrong time. Instead of rushing through a tax increase in a special session, I urge you to engage in a transparent,

public process to explore alternative solutions — such as reprioritizing existing funds and cutting inefficiencies. We don't have any more resources to give.

Oregonians are resilient, but we are also tired of being treated like an endless source of revenue. Please stand with working families, small businesses, and rural communities by rejecting this transportation tax.

Thank you for your time and consideration.