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On Behalf Of:

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Funding

Measure, Appointment or
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As an Oregonian concerned about our state's future, I strongly oppose increasing taxes to compensate for what many perceive as failed leadership under Governor Tina Kotek. Raising taxes, such as the proposed 6-cent gas tax hike and increased vehicle fees, places an undue burden on working families already struggling with rising costs, without addressing the root causes of our state's challenges.

First, Governor Kotek's administration has been criticized for mismanaging key issues. The failure to pass a comprehensive transportation funding package in 2025, leading to a \$350 million shortfall for the Oregon Department of Transportation, reflects a lack of effective collaboration with legislators. This has resulted in hundreds of ODOT layoffs and stalled essential services like road maintenance, which new taxes are now expected to fix. Oregonians shouldn't have to pay more due to legislative gridlock and poor planning.

Second, public trust in Kotek's leadership has eroded. Her approval ratings have ranked among the lowest nationally, with polls indicating widespread dissatisfaction. Many rural communities feel disconnected from Salem's priorities, and her handling of issues like homelessness, drug policy, and infrastructure has drawn criticism for being reactive rather than proactive. For instance, the delayed response to Measure 110's fallout, which saw rising overdoses before re-criminalization, has fueled frustration. Tax increases feel like a penalty for these shortcomings rather than a solution.

Finally, Kotek's focus on new taxes, such as the proposed payroll tax increase for public transit, ignores calls for reallocating existing resources more efficiently. Critics, including Republican leaders, have suggested using current state funds to address deficits instead of raising taxes, a view that resonates with many Oregonians facing economic strain. Without clear accountability and tangible results, additional taxes risk further alienating citizens.

Instead of raising taxes to prop up ineffective policies, we need leadership that prioritizes transparency, fiscal responsibility, and measurable outcomes. I urge lawmakers to reject these tax hikes and demand better governance for all Oregonians.