

Submitter: Janet Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Oregonian and advocate for responsible governance to express strong opposition to Governor Kotek's proposed \$5.7 billion transportation tax package. This plan—built on increased gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and payroll deductions—would place a disproportionate burden on working families already navigating rising costs.

In 2017, the legislature passed HB 2017, a \$5.3 billion transportation package funded by taxpayers with the promise of timely, cost-effective infrastructure improvements. Eight years later, that promise remains largely unfulfilled. Consider the following:

- ODOT overestimated revenue by \$1.1 billion, relying on outdated financial forecasting tools.
- The I-205 Abernethy Bridge project ballooned from \$248 million to \$815 million—a 228% increase.
- Taxpayers are now paying \$250 million annually in debt service, yet many projects remain incomplete.
- The Rose Quarter project received \$450 million in federal funding, but is now at risk of losing \$412 million due to delays and shifting priorities.
- The Center Street Bridge was allocated \$60 million for seismic retrofitting, but costs have escalated to \$260–\$390 million, with Phase 2 still unfunded.

These figures reflect more than mismanagement—they represent a breach of public trust. ODOT has failed to meet key accountability benchmarks, and Oregon families are being asked to pay more without seeing results.

Before considering any new taxes, we must demand a full accounting of previous spending, independent audits, and measurable performance outcomes. Oregon taxpayers deserve transparency, fiscal discipline, and responsible stewardship—not another blank check.

I urge this committee to reject the proposed tax increase until ODOT delivers on its past commitments. Let's restore trust before asking for more.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Brown

Tualatin, OR