

Submitter: Jana Corneliusen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

Testimony Opposing Governor Kotek's Proposed Tax Hikes

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jana Corneliusen, and I am a resident of Tualatin, Oregon. I am writing today to strongly oppose Governor Kotek's reckless proposal to dramatically raise taxes and fees on hardworking Oregonians.

This plan is nothing short of outrageous. Citizens of Oregon have already said NO to these kinds of tax increases, and yet here we are again being asked to pay more while getting less.

The proposal includes:

- ? A massive gas tax increase that will make it even harder for families and small businesses to afford transportation.

- ? Huge hikes to vehicle title and registration fees, hitting every driver in the state.

- ? A payroll tax scheme that would double what is taken from our paychecks—hurting workers and employers alike.

- ? And perhaps worst of all, the Governor wants to hand taxing authority over to unelected bureaucrats, allowing gas taxes and other fees to be raised without a single vote from the Legislature. That strips away transparency, accountability, and the people's voice in the process.

If this payroll tax doubling goes through, every component will cost more: income taxes, unemployment insurance, Paid Leave Oregon contributions, statewide and district transit taxes, and even the Workers' Benefit Fund. That means less take-home pay, higher costs for employers, and fewer resources left for Oregon families who are already struggling under high inflation and record housing costs.

We cannot continue to tax our way out of poor policy decisions. Oregonians are already paying some of the highest state income taxes in the nation, and we are seeing very little in return. Roads and bridges are deteriorating, housing is unaffordable, and state agencies are failing to deliver on their core responsibilities. The solution is not more taxes—it is better management, accountability, and prioritization of existing funds.

On behalf of myself, my family, and countless other Oregonians, I urge you: reject



this tax hike proposal. Listen to the people. Respect the “no” that has already been given.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jana Corneliusen  
Tualatin