

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed fee and tax increases currently being considered. As a small business owner and taxpayer in Oregon, I am deeply concerned about the long-term impacts these policies will have on our state, our economy, and the people you represent.

Small businesses are the backbone of Oregon. We employ our neighbors, contribute to our local communities, and keep our state's economy moving. Yet every additional fee and tax disproportionately hurts us, making it harder to operate, expand, and provide jobs. While large corporations often have the means to relocate when costs become too high — and many already have — small businesses are left to shoulder the weight, and with them, hardworking Oregonians suffer the most.

The middle class, in particular, is being hit the hardest. Families are already struggling with rising costs of living, and additional taxes only increase the burden. What Oregon needs is not more taxation, but transparency and accountability. I urge you to call for a full and independent audit of how our tax dollars are currently being allocated and spent. Before asking for more, government must prove that the money we already contribute is being managed responsibly.

It is also important to recognize that this proposal has already been rejected by the people of Oregon once before. Bringing it back during a special session — without allowing for public testimony — is both deceptive and disrespectful. This approach shows once again that too many current elected officials are not acting in the best interest of their constituents.

As an elected official, you are an employee of the taxpayers. It is your duty to represent the people of Oregon — not to pursue agendas that pad political interests while hurting those who trusted you with their vote. We will not continue to be taken advantage of in order to fund policies that serve a few while harming the many.

I respectfully ask that you oppose any increase in fees or taxes and instead focus on fiscal responsibility, accountability, and support for the small businesses and families who keep Oregon strong.

Sincerely,

Tara McLaughlin, Stylist/Owner
Ayla Mac Hair Co. Salon