

Submitter: Tom Mooney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Reject Misguided Tax Hikes—ODOT Needs Accountability, Not More Revenue

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to urge you not to support the proposed tax increases aimed at addressing the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) financial challenges. The narrative that electric vehicles and fuel-efficient cars are eroding gas tax revenues is misleading and distracts from the real issue.

The Facts:

- Motor fuel tax revenues are \$73 million higher than they were five years ago.
- These revenues continue to support both ODOT and local transportation agencies.
- The financial strain within ODOT is not due to declining income—it's due to unsustainable spending practices.

Governor Kotek's proposed tax hikes in the upcoming special session will not solve the underlying problem. Pouring more money into a system without addressing its inefficiencies only perpetuates fiscal mismanagement.

What We Need Instead:

- A comprehensive audit of ODOT's expenditures.
- Greater transparency and accountability in budgeting.
- Strategic reforms to ensure long-term sustainability without burdening taxpayers.

Oregonians deserve responsible stewardship of public funds—not reactionary tax increases based on flawed assumptions. I respectfully ask you to oppose any legislation that increases taxes without first addressing ODOT's spending habits.