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On Behalf Of:  
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Funding  
Measure, Appointment or  
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Since 2021 PGE has been approved to raise their rates more than 40%. NW Natural also raised its rates north of 45%. Car registration up 3%, gas per gallon up .04. All of these are essential services that your constituents rely on to live. We really have no other option and are at the mercy of what (un) and elected officials get to impose on us. Our current and former governor had no problem tightening our belts to promote their/our agenda, we did elect them. We all, in some way, had to readjust our spending habits so we could keep gas in our vehicles, the lights on and warm/ cool our homes during the appropriate season. All while, the "average" wage is holding at 5% increase annually, if you were lucky enough to be average. We adjusted our luxuries to supplement our essentials.

Yet, the first thing ODOT does is cut the essential workers. The ones that actually can save lives! Not one position was reduced on the board. Not one from the numerous positions in ODOT that isn't qualified to drive any one of their vehicles. Not one from the numerous positions from the project department that continuously miss their budgets, dates and schedules.

For example, the resurfacing project on 213 crossing Redland was planned for mid May thru end of May. Monday through Friday closures starting 8pm-5am. I took notice of this because I'm on the road at 4am mon- fri. This simple resurfacing project didn't start until June, weeks late. Another incident; we went to Seaside at the end of July. Roughly 10 miles to the 101 connection on 26 there's a warning sign of 25mph and sign "bump ahead." At 30-35 mph it's not a bump but a launching pad. This is safe for a major highway? Yet, this has been like this for months. These projects are small and yet demonstrates their best?

Missed deadlines, budgets, projects, unsafe roads all on a 6 billion dollar budget, currently 5 to 6% of the State's budget. If the Governor feels the roads and its projects need to be addressed then she needs to reappropriate funds to it so we all can be safe while we're trying to keep our state afloat. We all want more money but at what cost? How many residents and company headquarters need to leave Oregon before our legislators say enough is enough? Your constituents and businesses are telling you it's enough. She needs to readjust what our tax dollars are going to. Another question is why can't ODOT work within its previous budget? They want another billion. Maybe they're over budget because they're still offering 6 figure salaries to those that can't de-ice a road or fill in a pot hole. All the while, not holding anyone accountable from director to janitor. The Governor and ODOTs response is literally "just pay us more or we'll put your constituents at risk." A public entity that is putting the public at risk. We all need to start thinking differently. Increasing budgets doesn't mean success. An example of this is our public school system. We're ranked

in the bottom 40 while paying top ten prices in the nation per student. In short, this special session shouldn't be about more ways to burden our citizens and businesses with more taxes but rather a shift forward on accountability and separation of powers. Like the last session it's not about Rs and Ds it's about what is better for our state. We're all paying too much for threats and empty promises from services that don't work.