

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

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I respectfully and strongly oppose HB 2025 and its proposed tax and fee increases. While I understand the need for adequate transportation funding, the bill's approach places an undue burden on Oregonians—especially middle and lower-income households. Increasing the gas tax, implementing a road usage charge for electric vehicles, and hiking payroll taxes would further strain budgets that are already tight for many families and workers. These measures disproportionately affect those who rely on their vehicles for work and daily tasks, particularly in rural and suburban areas where public transportation options are limited.

Additionally, the increase in vehicle registration, titling fees, and the new vehicle sales/transfer tax are punitive and regressive, hitting those who may already struggle with the cost of living. For many, these added costs could make purchasing or maintaining a vehicle unaffordable, further deepening the gap between urban and rural residents.

Instead of continuing to burden citizens, we should focus on more transparent and effective management of ODOT resources and explore alternative funding models that minimize the impact on everyday Oregonians. We can achieve transportation infrastructure improvements without sacrificing fairness or economic stability.

In conclusion, I urge the Legislature to reconsider this bill and seek out more balanced, sustainable solutions to address Oregon's transportation funding needs. The current proposal only exacerbates the financial pressures already faced by hardworking Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Tosha