

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

Committee Members,

I oppose any gas tax increase until ODOT demonstrates basic fiscal competence. As a business owner, I would be bankrupt if I made the financial errors ODOT treats as routine.

**\*\*ODOT's Track Record Speaks for Itself:\*\***

ODOT made a \$1.1 billion accounting error - nearly 19% of their budget. They simply forgot to reconcile projections with actual revenue. Any private business making such errors would face criminal investigation.

Cost overruns on major projects total nearly \$5 billion:

- Abernethy Bridge: \$248 million ? \$815 million (229% over)
- Rose Quarter: \$450 million ? \$1.9 billion (322% over)
- Interstate Bridge: \$4.8 billion ? \$7.5 billion (56% over)

These aren't inflation adjustments - they're management failures that dwarf any claimed revenue shortfall.

**\*\*Oregon Doesn't Underfund Transportation:\*\***

Contrary to ODOT's claims, Oregon spends \$641 per capita on highways - above the national average and more than Utah, Washington, and California. We have a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

**\*\*The Shell Game Must Stop:\*\***

ODOT raids maintenance budgets to cover megaproject disasters, then demands tax increases to fund maintenance. They took \$100 million from bridge maintenance to pay Abernethy Bridge overruns, then laid off 500 maintenance workers.

**\*\*What I Demand Before Any Tax Discussion:\*\***

1. **\*\*Independent forensic audit\*\*** of all megaproject cost overruns
2. **\*\*Criminal investigation\*\*** into potential fraud in cost estimating
3. **\*\*Statutory protection\*\*** preventing maintenance fund raids

4. **\*\*Real accountability\*\*** - people must be fired for billion-dollar failures

**\*\*The Alternative Exists:\*\***

Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis identified \$730 million in savings without tax increases, including \$55.9 million from leasing ODOT's vacant office space and \$134 million from cutting non-essential programs.

**\*\*Don't Reward Failure:\*\***

Giving ODOT more money without reform rewards incompetence and guarantees more waste. Oregon families shouldn't pay higher taxes because ODOT can't manage the billions they already receive.

**\*\*My Ask:\*\***

Vote NO on any gas tax increase. Demand ODOT prove they can responsibly manage current funds before asking for more. Fix the management problem first.

Respectfully submitted,

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