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

To the Senators and Representatives on the Joint Interim Committee on
Transportation Funding:

In the last 10 years, ODOT's budget has nearly quadrupled. Simultaneously, mission drift has intensified as political and ideological motives have overtaken the foundational work of maintaining a functioning infrastructure.

Included in this massive budget increase is a salary increase for the Agency head from \$176k to \$288k. In those same 10 years, my wages—like so many Oregonians—have remained stagnant. Yet year after year, with increasing frequency, I find Oregon state government reaching for my wallet.

I'm frankly too exhausted at this point to be diplomatic: you are running a grift on Oregonians at multiple levels. You are taking money away from my family, my kids, with flowery language of inclusivity, and eco-consciousness. It's estimated that Oregon's contribution to global emissions is somewhere around .05% yet here you are trying to boil the ocean by layering on fee after fee, tax after tax in the name of climate resilience. For too long you have incited fear about climate change, while misleading Oregonians as to the impact any of our countermeasures may have, all as a means of accruing power and money for yourselves and your friends.

And don't get it twisted; we all know you use tax dollars to funnel money to your union friends who turn out for you during election season. We know you're padding budgets for ideological pet projects rather than focusing on providing safe and functioning infrastructure for Oregonians.

It is unconscionable that you would attempt to ram through policy that allows you to raise fees and taxes on us, your constituents, without an actual democratic process that involves us.

The solution to your 'budget crisis' is very simple: stop using ODOT as a weapon for your naked attempts at social engineering, and return it to an agency that does maintenance and infrastructure building in a way that truly benefits all Oregonians.

The citizens of Oregon have had enough of your political theater, your misguided ideological purity, and your inability to simply focus on the work of good governance.

Start making difficult budget decisions like the rest of us, and stop wasting my money with your hand out for more.