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

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and taxpayer to express my strong opposition to any proposed tax increases in Oregon. At a time when families and businesses are already facing economic uncertainty, higher costs of living, and inflation, raising taxes would only place an additional burden on those who are already stretched thin.

Rather than increasing taxes, I urge you and your colleagues to focus on using the state's existing resources more wisely and efficiently. Every year, billions of dollars flow into Oregon from hardworking citizens. Yet too often, we see wasteful spending, bloated administrative costs, and programs that fail to deliver results.

Raising taxes should never be the first option. It should be the last—only after every opportunity to eliminate inefficiencies, reform outdated systems, and ensure fiscal responsibility has been thoroughly explored and acted upon.

Many of the people in my community feel that state government should be held to the same standards as households and businesses: live within your means, prioritize spending, and be transparent and accountable with every dollar. Increasing revenue by taxing more does not solve the underlying issue of mismanagement or misplaced priorities.

There is a growing disconnect between taxpayers and how state funds are used. Before asking the public for more, state leaders must show that the money already collected is being spent in a disciplined, results-oriented manner. We need better oversight, smarter budgeting, and a commitment to reforms that truly benefit the people—not just the system.

As a lifelong resident of Oregon, I have seen how there has been a desire to just "throw more money at a problem" instead of truly evaluating how the money being brought in is appropriated. The proof is the failure of the legalization of illicit drugs in Oregon and using taxpayer funds to help with treatment. Good idea in theory, but poor implementation.

Please represent the voices of your constituents who believe in responsible government, not bigger government. I respectfully ask that you discourage any new or increased taxes and instead champion fiscal reforms that restore trust, encourage economic growth, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.