

I love Oregon. I am a retiree living on a fixed income. As you may appreciate, many retirees on fixed incomes are stretched thin economically. So, it is with concern I learn about the proposed increases to registration fees and gas taxes. Those of us living in this great state rely on our elected officials to represent our best interests in the Legislature. Yes, you may claim we, the public are merely ignorant of the demands placed on government, but could we not counter how effective and efficient is our government working? Please do not raise our cost of living before examining the alternatives to making government more effective and efficient. This is demanded of private companies, who compete or close their doors, but apparently not so with government, who simply increase taxes when they want more money. Curiously, this is evidenced in the push for electric vehicles to get people away from gas and diesel cars and trucks, only for consumers, like my daughter to learn registration fees are increased for EVs because government cannot collect gas taxes from them. This tactic demonstrates government will find a way to collect taxes one way or another. Is collecting revenue what drives the decisions of the legislature? What are the consequences to these types of decisions and at what point do they negatively impact constituents, like retired folks on fixed incomes? Why can't government prove through sound debate and rational discussion what is truly best for those living in this great state? It is easy to say more money is needed so taxes must be increased, but raising the cost of living for those in this state should be, must be a last resort. Is it too difficult to investigate what is driving up costs in the state, then to brainstorm to find solutions to alleviate the issue(s)? As you legislate, please consider the cost to those you serve and the potential consequences to them when their cost of living increases. Please do not increase vehicle registration fees or gas taxes.