

Submitter: Paul Carbaugh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Good afternoon Chair and members of this committee,

I strongly oppose Governor Kotek's proposed increasing of taxes and fees pertaining to owning a vehicle in Oregon.

Firstly I oppose increasing a departments budget without auditing and investigating why they ODOT can't perform their own internal audits without making huge mistakes. These mistakes have led to Billion dollar errors. ODOT projects have also had huge cost overruns such as the Rose Garden upgrade in Portland. These are financial mistakes made by ODOT and a forensic financial audit must be performed by an independent accounting firm. Any business owner would do this if company money wasn't being handled properly. This must be done before any increases to ODOT's budget to build trust with Oregonians.

Oregon ranks near the bottom in economic standings as compared to other states. Businesses are leaving Oregon, as has been reported in the news, due to economic reasons and over regulation. This is a tax lose to Oregon. People are moving out of Oregon proven by the potential lose of a US Representative seat. People are leaving for several reasons including economic. The cost of living has gotten very high, for several reasons, but increasing taxes and fees on owning and operating a vehicle is adding to the economic hardship for Oregonians and businesses. This is also a tax lose to Oregon.

These proposed tax and fee increases will only increase the cost of trucking and agriculture. From trucks delivering goods, trucks collecting trash and recycling, farms operating tractors and trucks, ranchers hauling livestock and even the lawn maintenance people who drive around with their mowers and weed-eaters, their costs are going to go up and be passed down to the consumers in Oregon. It will be a huge domino effect of cost increases.

As a retired individual I will be greatly affected. Myself and many others are on a fixed monthly income and many are already struggling financially. We do not need more taxes and fee increases just to drive to the grocery store or doctor appointments.

It is shameful of Gov. Kotek to threaten to fire ODOT maintenance crews so the roads won't be plowed as a scare tactic towards Oregonians. ODOT's maintenance

is only 15% of their total budget and that's what she wants to cut? BS

There must be another plan for ODOT. When I was a kid in Oregon, timber revenues contributed a lot of money to "roads" and "schools", why can't that be done again? Logging in state owned forests would not only provide revenue but help mitigate devastating forest fires like we have had these past few years. That's called a win - win. Trees are a natural renewable resource but our incomes are not.

Do not raise transportation taxes and fees. Find another plan and audit ODOT.

Thank you for your time and my opportunity to voice my thoughts and concerns.

Paul Carbaugh
Cottage Grove