

Submitter: Rosa Chamberlain
On Behalf Of: Oregonians for Oregon
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

To the Committee Chair, the Committee and Other Elected officials;

My name is Rosa (Renfroe) Chamberlain;

I write you as the Co-founder of Oregonians for Oregon. We actively hear from over 5,000 Oregonians every month and have over 50,000 Oregonians visit our Facebook group on a monthly basis. All 5,000 Oregonians we hear from are adamantly opposed to any more taxes or fees.

Over 1,000 Oregonians I have spoke with are so at the ends of their budgetary means, that they are preparing to sell out and leave state, if one more penny in taxes and fees are passed. You can add 200 members of my family to that number. Most these Oregonians, including my family, have been in Oregon between 3-5 generations. If this mass exodus holds true, throughout Oregon's population, you will lose 20% of Oregon's current population. That means you lose 20% of Oregon's tax paying citizens. Can you really afford to lose more taxpayers?

These taxes effect Oregon's most vulnerable population the most. Increasing gas tax, registration fees, etc does not just effect Oregonians at the DMV, gas pump, and their take home pay. It effects them on the cost of their most basic necessities. It effects the cost of food, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and all consumer goods across the board.

According to Oregon Health Authority 34% of Oregonians live below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. 20% of Oregonians live below the Federal Poverty Level and qualify for SNAP benefits. Those living in the most impoverished situations, if they are fortunate enough to be housed, live on the razors edge of homelessness. One additional tax will push them into homelessness. The gas tax, combined with the substantial fee increases at the DMV, will force struggling families out of work and into homelessness.

We recognize that 85% of our Elected State officials are millionaires and completely out of touch with the working poor of Oregon. IF YOU ARE TRULY THE PARTY OF COMPASSION, HAVE MERCY ON THE WORKING POOR OF OREGON. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OREGONIANS HOMELESS.

Respectfully,

Rosa (Renfroe) Chamberlain