

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter as a concerned mother and a member of our community to express my deep opposition to Governor Tina Kotek's transportation bill. As a family of six living on a tight budget, the financial struggles we face are immense, and this bill will only add to them.

Every day, I worry about how we will afford the basics needed to keep our family's cars on the road. The cost of gas continues to rise, and it feels like every time I fill the tank, a piece of our budget slips away. Insurance premiums are climbing, and the thought of navigating increased DMV fees or new road usage taxes is overwhelming. These added expenses feel like an attack on our already stretched finances.

As a mother, I want to ensure my children can thrive in a supportive environment where families are valued. However, I see how Oregon's current policies make it harder for working families like mine to succeed. We are already struggling to make ends meet—every dollar counts, and the proposed fees will only make our situation worse.

The road user fees would be detrimental to families like mine that live in rural areas as well, with already high mileage yearly due to living a farther distance from stores and places of work. This would make commuting to work, appointments, and a regular grocery stores to costly for households like mine trying to Make life for our family work.

I care deeply about our community and want to see our state flourish, but policies like this threaten the well-being of families like ours. It is disheartening to know that the poor handling and management of funding by our officials is being passed onto the citizens of this state, where prioritizing woke agendas is more important than supporting families and in turn our future generation of Oregonians who will also see the impacts. Instead of helping working families, this bill feels like another weight on our shoulders, driving us to reconsider whether we can stay in the state we love.

We need to explore the alternatives that address funding needs without penalizing families who are already striving for a better life. I urge you to reconsider this legislation and think about its impact on hard-working Oregonians. We deserve policies that support our families, not push us further into hardship.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Megan A Gee(Cheyne)
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