

August 22, 2025

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LC 2. My name is Mark Hubble and I've worked in IT for ODOT La Grande for the last 18 years. By supporting the Information systems in Region 5, I also support the hard work of all the employees of ODOT who use that technology every day. They use it to design roads, bridges, walkways, pathways, sidewalks, bike paths; they use it to check the weather for where the roads need to be plowed, and a thousand other ways they keep Oregon's roads and highways open to the public and to first responders. Without properly built and maintained roads and highways, there will be fewer or limited deliveries of food, mail, packages, and construction materials. To do all this requires computers, servers, switches, routers, scanners, plotters, and cell phones. I ensure all of that works so all of those services and infrastructure can be provided.

I was selected to be laid off, but I was able to bump my long-term coworker who's helped me create a finely tuned office that provides excellent and professional (and usually) same-day service to all of our customers. Without them, and without all the other hundreds of staff we'd lose without funding, will create an environment that will not only be difficult to perform our duties due to lack of support, staffing and materials, but also due to a lack of stability and trust in who we thought were supposed to provide us with reliable and sustainable employment.

Winter time and fire season will be the worst, because ODOT provides the clear and passable roads and technical support in severe emergency situations. With limited staff, we won't be there when we're needed most, which will certainly lead to more injuries, confusion, danger and possibly worse. We are an integral part of the whole system - remove any part of that, and you will have a system that cannot function at full capacity and it will negatively affect all the rest of the systems. No one wants this. The price of a few extra cents per gallon of gas will of course be felt, but when one considers the price of having no mail, no gift deliveries, no travel to see family during the holidays, less food at the stores, fewer products to keep our homes and autos working... it won't be pleasant, and that price will be much higher.

Please vote in support of this proposal and invest in ODOT to keep Oregon safe and moving forward.

Thank you,

Mark Hubble