

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 Melanie Lynch and I have worked with ODOT/DMV for almost 15 years, 8 of which I've served as an Information Systems Specialist 4 (ISS4). I am the left hand to my unit's leadership team as the technical/training lead. My right hand, our team lead, and ISS5 with more seniority than myself and others, received a layoff notice. He was able to bump, but our ability to support DMV frontline employees will be crippled without him and the two other members of our team. We are DMV's first contact for system issues.

Without our team lead and our additional support staff, wait times for staff experiencing technical difficulties in a DMV office would be significantly higher. We currently operate by answering 85-95% of our calls within 30 seconds and can get a system or device operable for DMV staff in about 5 minutes. We will not be able to maintain those numbers without our entire team. By providing the minimal funding needed, DMV staff will continue to have the support they need to keep the traveling public, your constituents, content and moving smoothly about the state.

I am a moderate conservative, since I started at ODOT in 2010, I have seen them eliminate vacant positions to help all state agencies reach a balanced budget. I have taken unpaid days off (furlough days) to help ease the entire state's budget. I was present over 5 years ago when the numbers were processed and it was determined that ODOT's funding would not be sustainable for the 2025-2027 biennium. I have watched as advocates for DMV pleaded for road use charges to be looked at for electric, hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles, which are all wonderful options, but if a state's transportation is funded by gas taxes, fuel efficiency is a huge impact.

We can make changes, you can change the way ODOT budget is distributed, you can ensure all drivers are paying their fair share of road usage. You can trust that by supporting ODOT, you are supporting an agency that realizes the importance of the work it does for Oregonians, and that is a worthy cause indeed.

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

Thank you,

Melanie Lynch