

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 Sydney Culpepper and I've worked as an Executive Support Specialist 1 for over 4 years in ODOT Salem. I take care of document filing, including critical HR documents, as well as other administrative duties. I handle tasks that managers would otherwise have to do, allowing the managers to have time to dig into the critical public-facing work. While my work is behind the scenes, every one of the managers and staff I support would be able to list how essential I am to their every day. My work also directly affects the state budget and resources through my duties with computer and software asset management.

I was not part of the first round of layoffs, though it is possible I could be bumped out. The lack of job security creates a huge amount of anxiety throughout the agency and within my life.

Without a fully funded ODOT, the agency and the state will suffer immensely. ODOT is already hurting because of the lack of job security and confidence in the agency as an employer. We will not be able to conduct work as effectively or as quickly because of the reduction in workforce. ODOT's reputation as an employer of choice and a public agency will hurt for years to come.

The state will suffer because of our inability to perform critical services effectively: wildfire prevention, road maintenance and repair, emergency response, snow plows, DMV office availability, etc. The public will see this and blame ODOT without realizing ODOT is trying its hardest while being cut off at the knees by the legislature. Make no mistake, safety on the road system will be compromised and people will die. Funding ODOT is a matter of critical public importance.

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

Thank you,

Sydney Culpepper