

August 22, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LC 2. My name is Emily Krautscheid and I've worked as an ODOT Transportation Maintenance Specialist 2 for almost 2 years. I work out of Government Camp in the winter, which means we maintain Hwy 26, Hwy 35, Hwy 173, government camp loop, as well as the snow parks. We do many things in our job, but to summarize: we plow and blow snow off the highways, apply de-icer and sand to the highways to keep the public moving.

We respond to accidents and are typically the first to respond to accidents as we are fairly remote. We are the ones comforting your loved ones as they wait for AMR, tow trucks, etc. We are the ones flagging other traffic around the incidents to prevent other incidents from happening. We are the ones that keep the mountain passes open. During winter storms, we can barely see in front of the plow, but we stay on the road plowing to keep at least a lane open so you can get to where you are going. We are also the ones helping the ones that have never thrown a tire chain figure it out so they can continue on to wherever they are going.

During the summer, I work out of Troutdale in striping. Striping Hwys such as 26, 205, 6, 47, 30 and many others. We also maintain crosswalks, and legends. We all know how important it is to have crosswalks that are visible. As an example of legends, turn arrows on the pavement that are legible to help the traveling public know which lane to choose. Bike symbols for a bike lane are also another example.

I am being laid off. It's devastating to me on many levels, not just financially. Losing our health insurance is the biggest hit for me. With a family member having chronic health conditions, losing this health insurance is a huge problem for me. This is all incredibly stressful. I've enjoyed my job and serving the public, but being laid off feels like a slap in the face.

I am extremely worried for the traveling public this winter with the amount of maintenance workers being laid off. We are already shorthanded, already struggling to keep up during winter storms. With these layoffs, it will be impossible to keep up with the highways. I feel for my coworkers that aren't laid off. As they will have an impossible job to do: doing more with less.

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

Thank you,

Emily Krautscheid