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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or LC 2
Topic:

Cochairs Wagner and Fahey, and members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

As a lifetime Oregon resident, I would like to voice my opposition to add more taxes and fees to Oregonians for the 2025 legislative session for the transportation budget shortfalls.

Adding additional taxes on gas, increases on registration fees, title fee increases, adding additional diesel tax and trucking fees is not the answer, it is a terrible idea of a band aid for overspending. When a department does not practice due diligence in accounting practices for years and does not correctly balance their budget, this should have put out red flags on the spending of said department. Requiring the residents of the state to pay for this HUGE oversight of accounting practices is appalling.

As an Eastern Oregon resident, I find it insulting to pay payroll taxes for urban transit, let alone to threaten us to double that tax. This system is not available to anyone outside the I-5 Corridor. That system should be sustainable by token purchase or ride permit purchases for those using the system. Tax money should not be the source of income for that project.

The Oregon Department of Transportation and their staff are vital to our state roads and are highly needed during winter weather. The recent layoffs are not the answer for the state. I believe these decisions to layoff the line workers was a scare tactic for us to approve these ludicrous taxes and fees.

How about ODOT stay within budget. I must in my home. Cut the fat and overpriced projects and focus on keeping our roads safe to travel. How does a department receive the budgeted amounts for the next biennium that it had for the 2023-2025 and be short enough to lay off 500 line staff? Cut the pet projects and pay for the labor first that services our roads.

I and my family stand firmly on "No More Taxes" and "Hands Off My Wallet".