

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Victoria Brooks. I am a 30-year-old woman, born and raised right here in Oregon, where the misty forests and rugged coastlines have shaped who I am. I've built a successful career through hard work and determination, and I'm grateful for the opportunities this state has given me. But today, I write to you not just as a professional, but as a mother to young children, a friend to many who are just starting their own families, and a proud Oregonian who is deeply worried about our future.

I see it every day—the quiet struggles of those around me. Friends and neighbors, young families like mine, are barely making ends meet in the face of skyrocketing costs of living. Groceries, housing, childcare—everything is more expensive than it should be. Our job market is tough, with businesses packing up and leaving for greener pastures, taking opportunities with them. Even those of us who are privileged and lucky, like me, with stable careers and a bit of security, find ourselves treading water just to stay afloat. We're not getting ahead; we're just surviving.

This proposed transportation tax hike threatens to push us all over the edge. Oregon families are already over-taxed and overburdened compared to the national average. Passing this bill won't build bridges—it will break backs. It will force more of us to make impossible choices: cut back on essentials for our kids, delay dreams of homeownership, or worse, leave the state we love. Those who can afford to go will pack up and head elsewhere, draining Oregon of its vitality and talent. And those who can't? They'll be left with even less to give, scraping by in a place that's supposed to be our home, not our hardship.

If everyday Oregonians like me—parents, workers, dreamers—are stretched so thin that we must meticulously budget every dollar, why should we expect our legislators to operate under a different standard? You represent us; you should feel our pain and share our priorities. Reject this tax hike. Invest in solutions that lift us up, not weigh us down. Our families, our communities, and our state's future depend on it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Brooks

Oregon Resident and Mother