

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

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court St. NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Re: Opposition to Proposed Increases in Oregon Gas, Title, and Registration Taxes

Dear Governor Kotek,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to your recent proposal to raise the gas tax, title tax, and vehicle registration fees in Oregon. While I understand the need to fund infrastructure and transportation projects, placing additional financial burdens on working Oregonians is not the right approach.

Oregon families are already facing high costs of living, with rising housing, energy, and food expenses. Adding higher taxes on essential transportation will disproportionately affect those who rely on their vehicles to commute to work, school, and medical appointments—particularly in rural communities where public transit is not a realistic option.

These tax increases would also place additional strain on small businesses, farmers, and tradespeople who depend on their vehicles and equipment every day. Higher operating costs will inevitably be passed along to consumers, further driving up the cost of goods and services at a time when many Oregonians are already struggling.

Instead of raising taxes on residents, I encourage you and the legislature to prioritize fiscal responsibility by:

- Reviewing current state spending to identify savings and eliminate inefficiencies.
- Exploring fairer funding solutions that do not unfairly penalize working families.
- Considering innovative alternatives such as public-private partnerships, federal infrastructure grants, or reallocation of existing revenues.

Oregonians should not be asked to shoulder yet another tax hike just to cover the basics of transportation funding. I urge you to reject this proposal and work toward solutions that protect our state's economy and the financial stability of its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.