

# Public Testimony on Governor Kotek's Transportation Funding Proposal

My name is Brandon Vogelpohl, and I am submitting this testimony to express my opposition to Governor Kotek's proposed transportation funding bill. While I understand the importance of maintaining a strong transportation system and preventing layoffs at the Oregon Department of Transportation, I do not believe that continually raising taxes is the right solution.

Oregonians are already facing rising costs of living—from housing and groceries to energy and utilities. Adding higher gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and payroll taxes further burdens working families and small businesses at a time when many are struggling to make ends meet. These tax increases may provide a short-term fix, but they fail to address the root issue: accountability and transparency in how state funds are spent. Before asking taxpayers for more money, the state must conduct a full, independent audit of the Oregon Department of Transportation and other government agencies. We deserve to know exactly where our money is going, how it is being managed, and what inefficiencies can be corrected. Without this accountability, raising taxes simply places more weight on Oregonians without guaranteeing that the funds will be spent wisely or effectively.

I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and instead prioritize a government-wide financial audit. Transparency and accountability must come before additional taxation. Only by understanding and addressing how existing funds are used can we build a sustainable and equitable solution for Oregon's transportation system and future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

August 23, 2025

Respectfully submitted,  
Brandon Vogelpohl