

Co-Chairs Fahey & Wagner, Vice Chairs Drazen & Bonham, and members of the committee:

I'm Katherine Fredricks of Portland. I recognize that Federal Budget cuts make it hard to pass a transportation package that works for all Oregonians.

Road repair and safety is your voters first priority. This is not the time to expand freeways. It is time to prioritize public transit, biking and walking. I walk almost everywhere, except to work. I would ride my bike there, but I work in industrial NW Portland. Double semis roar down the road constantly. They knock down power poles about once a year. I don't feel safe riding down the road, when semis mow down power poles that aren't even in the roadway.

I also recognize that highway repair is funded by the gas tax, and electric cars need to pay their fair share. However the proposed road usage tax for EVs is based on a 20 MPG vehicle. This means you are overcharging EVs, because Oregon's average is @ 30 MPG. Please set the EV tax based on 30 MPG. Plus, I suggest a tax on luxury cars and SUVs. Most people who drive SUVs don't need them, and SUVs cause extra wear and tear on the roads.

The current draft of this package fails to deliver investment in EVs and charging infrastructure. It fails to address climate change and the pollution that fuels drought, flood, agricultural and wildfire disasters. Air pollution from transportation makes people sick and puts them in the hospital. In more than ½ of Oregon counties, diesel pollution is high enough to increase the lifetime risk of cancer. Speaking as a cancer survivor, this is absolutely unacceptable. EVs are here. They cost less to run than gas powered cars.

Taxpayers are already paying extra for fossil fuels. According to the International Monetary Fund, which is not a liberal, green organization, in 2022, global direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuels amounted to seven trillion dollars. That's money out of our pockets.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies>

In the US, taxpayer subsidies for fossil fuels are estimated as high as \$20 billion every year. Wake up! Stop robbing average Americans to subsidize the wealthiest corporations on earth.

<https://www.budget.senate.gov/chairman/newsroom/press/sen-whitehouse-on-fossil-fuel-subsidies-we-are-subsidizing-the-danger->

Just as we need a reality check on tax subsidies to fossil fuels, Oregonians deserve to know where our transportation dollars are going. We need a clear public record of how ODOT spends its money.

So please fix the potholes – on my 2.5 mile commute to work, there is a cluster of potholes that could swallow a family of dachshunds. It gets fixed once a year and stays fixed for a month. I spend the rest of the year dodging the increasing depths. And please recognize that fixing potholes is not enough. Climate change is killing us. Transportation is the major source of carbon dioxide. Fund public transit, EVs and charging stations.

Thank you,

Katherine Fredricks
Portland, OR