

Submitter: Rebecca Weisse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

A tax hike of this kind is absolutely outrageous! You claim to be working for low and middle class Oregonians, but you obviously are not thinking of us at all, just lining your state coffers, advancing your agenda, and satisfying your constituents. Oregon's income tax is already astronomical!!! My husband and I pay THOUSANDS and THOUSANDS of dollars every year in taxes that we can barely afford, just to see homelessness get worse and worse, roads almost undrivable, (see Sam's Valley Highway's "bump" that is a sizable section of the road sunken in and collapsed, and has remained this way for months and months. I talked to ODOT in person myself to ask WHY it remains in the state it is in, and was told "red tape"), and so much more. People are STRUGGLING!!! Groceries are SO expensive!!! Utilities are through the roof!!! And what happened to the kickers you all were toying with the idea of keeping to offset your pretend deficit?! If you REALLY need some extra cash, we all know you will just refuse to issue back kickers. And correct me if I am wrong, but kickers happen when taxes have been OVERPAID and there is an excess. STOP TAXING US TO DEATH!!! Live in the everyday reality like we all do! We have to buy gas to get to work!!! Making it even more expensive will NOT cause us to buy electric vehicles we can't afford, or drive less, it will simply make us pay MORE to go to work, and put LESS food on the table for our children!!! Children that need to go to doctor's appointments, sports, and other activities that ALSO require gas! I drive my two kids to and from school and each has one extra activity they participate in. I also take care of my Mom in Eagle Point, who is in a wheelchair. Out of curiosity, I put my trip odometer on to see how much I drove on an average school week. It totaled just under 400 miles! And we live 10 minutes from school! How do you think that gas tax will affect my family?! I won't even go there on my husband's every two week commute to work. If you raise registration and title fees, people will simply stop registering and transferring titles, and risk it, driving around unregistered, complicating ownership when issues arise. And income tax going up?!?! How?!?!? We can barely afford it NOW! We have to pay bills and eat! And drive to work to pay said bills!!! Do you realize how much my power bill is?! On equal pay my bill is \$542.02. On EQUAL pay!!! It is so high I have to call Pacific Power and pay TWO SEPARATE PAYMENTS ON THEIR PHONE TREE, because their system cannot accept that high of a payment, and cuts off payment amounts at \$500. Call it and try. I am not making this up. We cannot afford another tax hike, let alone 4 or 5. You guys are living in some fantasy land where you think if you need money for this green project or that, you can just arbitrarily hike taxes sky high and move on with your day. My family lives in an older home. We aren't millionaires. After we pay bills, buy gas, and put food on the table, there isn't much left, and what IS left, goes to the things that

come up on the regular: co-pays to take our kids to the doctor, medicine, and a part for our car or a fix on the house. And we are the lucky ones!!! My husband has worked himself nearly to death to get where he is and make decent money, and we are barely scraping by. Most people I know are in much more precarious financial positions. Many, maybe even most I know, are a mere paycheck away from being homeless. HOMELESS!!! This is shameful...Unacceptable. We at MINIMUM deserve a vote on all this!!! For ONCE in your LIFE, LISTEN TO YOUR VOTERS!!! And STOP THE SPENDING!!! In my house, if we don't have the funds for the extra thing, WE DON'T GET IT! And if we HAVE to get it, or pay for it, and it is absolutely necessary, like I am assuming you will say wildfire mitigation is one reason for all this, then do what every, other, person, living, in, reality does: FIGURE IT OUT WITH WHAT MONEY YOU HAVE! That is all!!! Sincerely, Rebecca Weisse