

Submitter: Emily Matero

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

Emily Matero?8635 SW Capitol Hwy?Portland, OR

97219?emilymmatero1@gmail.com?08/23/2025

Governor Tina Kotek?Office of the Governor?900 Court St NE, Suite 254?Salem, OR  
97301

Dear Governor Kotek,

I am writing to you not as a politician or public figure, but as a mother and wife deeply concerned about the direction our state is heading—specifically in regard to the proposed gas tax.

My family is a hard-working, middle-class household trying to stay afloat in Portland. My husband owns a small business and used to work five days a week, 12-hour shifts—already a demanding schedule. But since March, he has been working seven days a week just to keep up with the rising costs. He hasn't had a day off in months. Why? Because of the financial burden placed on us by policies such as the increased water bills, housing taxes, and the overall cost of living—many of which have come under your leadership.

Now, with a potential gas tax on the horizon, I am genuinely afraid. We are stretched beyond capacity. We cannot handle any more tax hikes. Every additional cost is another hour, another day, that my husband must sacrifice at work instead of spending time with our children. It is wearing him down physically and emotionally—and it is affecting our entire family.

We are not wealthy. We are not asking for special treatment. We are just trying to live a stable life, raise our children, and contribute to our community. But the current trajectory is not sustainable. If this continues, I fear the toll on my husband's health and on our children's well-being will be irreversible.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed gas tax and any future policies that disproportionately burden middle-class families. We are not just numbers. We are real people living with the consequences of every decision made in Salem.

Please, Governor Kotek—hear us. Help us.

Sincerely,?Emily Matero