

Dear Representatives and Senators



I am writing to express my firm and unequivocal opposition to Governor Tina Kotek's proposed transportation funding bill, currently known as Legislative Concept 2. This proposal is fiscally reckless, politically indefensible, and a direct affront to democratic principles.

The bill seeks to raise an estimated \$5.7 billion over the next decade through a series of aggressive tax and fee hikes, including:

- A **6-cent** increase in the state gas tax, raising it from 40 to 46 cents per gallon starting January 2026
- A doubling of the payroll tax from 0.1% to 0.2%, impacting every working Oregonian to fund public transit, which we have little to none in the rural part of the state. ***Let Portland pay for their own.***
- A **\$42** increase in vehicle registration fees and a \$139 increase in title fees, disproportionately affecting rural and low-income residents
- A **\$30** surcharge on electric vehicles, on top of existing fees
- A mandatory enrollment in the OReGO road usage program for electric and hybrid vehicle owners, with a flat \$340 annual fee for those who opt out. ***How is this mandatory if you can opt out?***

These measures are being pushed through a special session with limited public input, and worse, the bill includes provisions that delegate taxing authority to unelected bureaucrats, bypassing voter approval entirely. This is a dangerous erosion of representative government and sets a precedent that undermines public trust.

What makes this proposal even more egregious is that while the Governor claims Oregon cannot afford to maintain basic road safety infrastructure—threatening to lay off nearly 500 ODOT workers and close 12 maintenance stations—she continues to authorize funding for discretionary projects, including those directed toward Indigenous initiatives. While these efforts may have merit, it is unacceptable to prioritize them over the essential public safety needs of all Oregonians. Our roads, bridges, and emergency response systems are deteriorating, and the state's budget priorities must reflect the urgency of these core services.

Governor Kotek's plan fails to explore alternative solutions such as reprioritizing existing funds, implementing cost-saving reforms, or ensuring accountability for past budget overruns. Instead, it places the burden squarely on taxpayers—many of whom are already struggling with rising costs, mainly due to the ineffective leadership in our state.

I urge you to reject this proposal in its entirety. Stand up for fiscal accountability, democratic integrity, and the rights of your constituents. Oregon deserves a transportation plan that is transparent, equitable, and voter-approved—not one that is rushed through under the guise of urgency and built on the backs of working families.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to the people of Oregon. Please remind all congressional assembly members that they are to serve the constituent not special interest.

Sincerely,
Tami Sloan
Milton-Freewater, OR
Pissed off Taxpayer!