

Submitter:	Katie Reese
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	LC 2

My family and I are recovering financially from when my husband had cancer in 2021. Our life savings were completely wiped out and we are now living by the skin of our teeth. He is in remission and was able to go back to work but he was laid off earlier this year, which put us right back into struggling with money. It's very difficult to find work here in Oregon and he only just recently was able to get hired onto another job that, unfortunately, doesn't pay enough to cover rent and bills. I am the driver in our household and every day, I drive him to and from work. Public transportation isn't an option because there's only one bus line out where he works and it doesn't even go near his job. We already can barely afford to keep putting gas in the car so that I can keep taking him to work. This is literally all we have going for us right now and an increase in gas cost would be absolutely devastating for us. For our children. There is no help for us. All programs are stretched too thin and we have nowhere we can turn to for assistance. When hearing about the possible increase of roughly 5 billion dollars in more taxes, I just about broke down and cried. We can't afford Oregon's cost of living but can't afford to move to another state either. I still cry when I think of how much I had to pretend like I had strength when my husband was dying just to keep going. I'm burnt out. I don't have strength for this. For trying to figure out how to survive the cost of living in this state. I was born here, and never left. I love my state. But I'm hurt by our very out of touch leadership.