

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

Dear Governor Kotek,

I am writing to express deep concern and strong opposition to your proposed plan that includes a significant gas tax increase, major hikes to vehicle title and registration fees, a dramatic doubling of payroll tax withholdings, and a request for the Legislature to relinquish its authority to unelected bureaucrats when it comes to raising taxes.

Oregonians are already struggling. Families across our state are doing their best to make ends meet amid rising housing costs, inflation, and economic uncertainty. Many are working two or more jobs just to keep food on the table and pay the bills. This proposed plan risks pushing countless working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and vulnerable residents into deeper financial hardship.

A large gas tax increase will hit rural Oregonians especially hard—those who rely on their vehicles for commuting, healthcare access, and transporting goods. Increased title and registration fees will penalize every driver and family who needs a vehicle to function in daily life. Doubling payroll tax withholdings reduces take-home pay for already underpaid workers, essentially forcing a pay cut on thousands.

Even more concerning is the proposal to hand over tax-raising authority to unelected officials. This undermines democratic accountability and removes essential checks and balances from the tax policy process. Oregon taxpayers deserve transparency, oversight, and a voice in decisions that so profoundly impact their lives.

I urge you to reconsider this plan and instead work toward solutions that support struggling Oregonians rather than burdening them further. Any new tax proposals must be fair, transparent, and fully debated through the proper legislative process—not decided behind closed doors or handed off to unaccountable bureaucrats.

Please listen to the voices of everyday citizens. We want a government that lifts us up, not one that increases our cost of living while taking away our representation.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Smart