

Submitter: Andrew Jensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed increase in transportation funding through the following measures:

- * Increase in gas tax
- * Raised vehicle registration costs (including mopeds, motorcycles, and utility trailers)
- * Higher title fees
- * Doubling the statewide transit payroll tax

While I recognize the importance of maintaining our transportation infrastructure, I believe these tax increases are both unnecessary and inappropriate for the following reasons:

*** Sufficient Revenue Already Collected**

The government has already collected substantial tax revenue that should be adequate to fund the Department of Transportation's essential functions. Rather than imposing additional burdens on taxpayers, we should focus on more efficient allocation and management of existing resources.

***Constitutional Mandate Being Violated**

Our state constitution clearly directs that gas tax revenue and vehicle fees must be used exclusively for road maintenance and transportation projects. However, these funds are currently being diverted to other purposes, violating both the letter and spirit of our constitution. Before asking taxpayers for additional money, the state must first ensure that constitutionally-designated transportation funds are being used as intended.

***Alternative Solutions**

Instead of raising taxes, I urge you to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive audit of how current gas tax and vehicle fee revenue is being spent
2. Redirect misallocated transportation funds back to their constitutional purpose
3. Implement better oversight to ensure transportation funds remain dedicated to transportation needs
4. Explore efficiency improvements within the Department of Transportation

The citizens of our state are already facing significant financial pressures. Adding more taxes when existing transportation revenue is being improperly diverted is both

unfair to taxpayers and contrary to our constitutional requirements.

I respectfully urge you to vote against this legislation and instead focus on ensuring proper use of existing transportation funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.