

Submitter: Janet Jungwirth
On Behalf Of: Opposing Kate's Tax Hikes and Changes to Law
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Testimony of Janet Bryant Jungwirth
14353 Manning Road NE
Woodburn, Oregon 97071

8/25/2025

Subject: Testimony Opposing Proposed Tax Increases

Dear Governor Kotek and Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen of Oregon, deeply troubled by the proposed tax increases that are currently being discussed. I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of the following provisions:

- A significant increase in the gas tax
- Massive hikes to title and registration fees
- Doubling the amount taken out of workers' paychecks
- The proposal to delegate tax-raising authority to unelected bureaucrats

These measures would severely impact the people of our state, especially those already grappling with the rising cost of living. Let me explain why these tax hikes are so concerning:

1. Gas Tax Increase:

The proposed increase in the gas tax would not only directly raise the cost of fueling our vehicles but would also result in higher costs for essential services across the state. Farmers, who rely on transportation to bring their goods to market, would face much higher operating costs, which will inevitably drive up food prices for everyone. Teachers—who often spend their own money on classroom supplies—would also feel the burden, as the cost of commuting to their schools increases. Schools will also see their costs rise as the gas tax rises. Busing students, food services and infrastructure within our schools will be further burden if you allow this to pass. Additionally, even basic services like garbage collection will become more expensive, as these services rely on gas-powered vehicles.

2. Title and Registration Fee Hikes:

The proposed hikes to title and registration fees will be another financial blow to working families and small businesses. For many in rural areas, owning and maintaining a vehicle is not optional—it's essential for commuting to work, transporting goods, and running daily errands. These increases will disproportionately affect those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

3. Doubling Payroll Deductions:

The plan to double payroll deductions would significantly reduce take-home pay for workers, making it even harder for families to cover basic expenses like housing,

healthcare, and groceries. This move would be particularly harmful to teachers, farmers, and other public service workers who are already operating on tight budgets.

4. Transfer of Tax-Raising Authority to Bureaucrats:

Finally, the idea of transferring tax-raising power to unelected bureaucrats is a dangerous proposition. This shift undermines the democratic process and removes accountability from the elected officials who should be responsible for making such critical decisions. It creates a system where tax increases could be imposed without the necessary oversight or input from the people who will bear the cost.

As someone who cares deeply about the financial well-being of my fellow citizens, I strongly urge you to reject these proposed tax increases. Instead of burdening the people of our state with higher costs, we should be focusing on policies that support economic growth, job creation, and the long-term financial stability of families, teachers, farmers, and small businesses.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with you today, and I hope you will take these points into consideration as you move forward in your decision-making.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Janet B. Jungwirth