Submitter:                          Trevor Hoagland

On Behalf Of:

Committee:                          Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
                                         Funding

Measure, Appointment or         LC 2
        Topic:

Dear Members of the committee,

I echo many: this special session is not needed and uncalled for. Many have already shown this using the states own data.

This issue of the "Gas Tax / Wage Tax" has been greatly broadcasts near and far in regards to multiple issues:
* ODOT being fully funded for all current projects since 2017 bill.

* ODOT loosing money yet no one is bothering to find where it went.
    * Seems reminiscent of our former Secretary of State getting a slap on the wrist of $1,500 fee for accepting bribes but no other things, like unable to serve in government again, or anything else.

* The governor firing/letting go the blue collar workers for ODOT that do the work on the existing project due to funding and Trump, yet keeping the high level union members and pencil pushers, which is strange excuse on both counts. However, we also kept many roles that fall outside the primary mission of ODOT, such as a DEI / DEIB administrative component, which is in the white collar side not the "pot hole and road fixing side."

* Many projects cut down on the populace being able to get to and from work, which is strange for the party of the "Working Family" to cut into.

* The president for the transportation council being removed from the room by his own party in the last session and now being asked to retire as well.

* The bill itself not passing yet Oregon has the largest Democratic Super majority, which can only mean  even the Democratic party does not think this is a good idea.

* The state is nearing the highest in taxes and going lower in education.

* The Oregon GOP has designed a funding plan that does not increase taxes but cuts waste, abuse and fraud and uses existing funding.

* The amount of taxes gathered in the state, and the amount that is needed has ballooned over the last decade yet the Oregon government's size and scope has not.

Now we some other things to consider about the community who cost of living you'll increase:
* Electricity rates are going up as we are only buying from "Clean sources" making us fight California for our energy, but the citizenry is footing the bill.

* Due to bad tax / regulation on businesses, we are seeing mom and pop / small businesses fold or flee since COVID.
    * The size of business leaving or folding is now going to larger organizations.
    * This results in either loosing population or loosing tax payers as they are no longer contributing.
    * We are loosing that new congressional seat - did not even one legislative session - due to a shrinking population.

* Oregon is approaching the top costs in taxes, cost of living, and gas.
    * While we are the cheapest on average for the West Coast, barely, but we wont be if this passes.

* You are increasing the wage tax for a proven dying system - TriMet - that is overpaying it's staff as it is getting government subsidies and less ridership.
    * Remote workers are taxed for this but their employer in another state. So, not welcoming to remote workers.

* We are building a new arena for a baseball team that no one really attends as per the economic report in addition to the fight to keep the blazers, which will cost taxpayers more to keep.

Democrats have had the Trifecta of Government for almost 40 years. Where we are at seems to be a continuation of a long litany of issues.  We are coming to a inflection point where we either change what we are doing to reinvigorate the state, or we will only see more of the same. Simply put, if you want people to vote for you then be the help you said you were when you ran.

The last thing I ask is that  before voting, you each personally take the time to do a "man-on-the-street" type poll and ask anyone on the street that you run into about it. Make sure to carry a chart showing the changes proposed to current and not this shadowy bill that showed up  partially last minute. And not people you normally interact with.

Respectfully,
Trevor Hoagland