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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

I am a disabled veteran that lives near La Pine. I am 100% disabled and my income is fixed. I am lucky in that I have a higher income than most disabled persons. I was able to earn a good retirement from employment plus the compensation I get from the VA. I am also fortunate in that I am only 58 years old and had to retire when I was 49; so I have been on a fixed income for quite some time. However, I did lose a quarter of my income last year when my 60 year old wife died from cancer last year.

I pay attention to what the Government is doing with my tax dollars. I also pay attention to the various laws the legislatures cant help but to enact. I really have a difficult time understanding why this legislature can't get that people like me are barely getting by as it is. Every year for the past few years inflation has been out of control. You can go ahead and justify yourself by believing the inflation rate has been smaller than it truly has been. However, you know very well that the inflation numbers exclude several items that normal folks like me NEED to be able to live. All energy is excluded, many food items are excluded, taxes are excluded, most insurance is excluded and interest rates that we depend upon are not taken in to consideration.

As it stands now, I am being forced to sell my home because the costs of living have gotten to the point that I am having difficulty paying for my already modest living. Unfortunately I have to wait until next year with my fingers crossed to list my home. Otherwise I will lose most of the equity I have gained since purchasing my home 5 years ago. Selling my house will depend on what happens with interest rates and the housing market.

Since retiring, I don't just sit around and watch tv; I spend a lot of time volunteering for Veterans and at the OMSI doing submarine tours. I have had to cut back on my volunteering because I do not have the discretionary funds anymore to pay for my gas.

I worked for State Government for 22 years and was an Accounting Analyst when I retired. I know there are other ways that this government can save money. How many projects are over budget or poorly designed that money was wasted on? Are there projects that can be delayed or audited to ensure tax payer dollars are not being wasted? Delayed project funding should be redirected to pay for core highway maintenance and most urgent public safety needs.

It is well past time for this State Government to stop bleeding us hard working regular

folks of every spare penny we are trying to use to live off of. We already cannot pay for the food we need, the gas we need, the registration of our vehicles, our insurance, property and related taxes. This bill will just make it impossible for people like me to keep living in a way that we earned. We have already tightened up our finances and are figuring out how to pay our bills. It is time for this Legislature and this Governor to figure out how to do the same things us taxpayers are already doing to get by.