

Submitter: Brandi Gould  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or LC 2  
Topic:  
Draft Testimony

To the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding  
August 25, 2025

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandi Gould, and I live in Grants Pass, Oregon, in Josephine County. I am here today to voice my opposition to the proposed \$5.8 billion tax package that includes increases to the gas tax, title and registration fees, payroll taxes, and the addition of new fees for electric and fuel-efficient vehicles.

Oregonians are already struggling with the rising cost of living. Families in my community are working hard to make ends meet—balancing groceries, housing, childcare, and transportation. Adding more taxes and fees at this time places an additional and unfair burden on the very people you are elected to serve.

- A \$0.06 increase to the gas tax may sound small, but for working families and rural Oregonians who must commute long distances, this adds up quickly.
- Raising title and registration fees by over \$180 combined makes vehicle ownership more difficult, especially for young drivers, low-income families, and seniors on fixed incomes.
- Doubling the payroll tax for the State Transportation Improvement Fund will make it harder for small businesses to keep employees on payroll, particularly in industries that are already struggling.
- Finally, penalizing Oregonians who choose electric or fuel-efficient vehicles by adding new registration fees or a Road User Charge undermines the state's stated goals of encouraging cleaner transportation and reducing emissions.

While I support investing in safe, well-maintained infrastructure, this proposal is not the answer. It prioritizes raising revenue on the backs of everyday Oregonians without addressing accountability, spending efficiency, or alternative funding mechanisms.

I urge the committee to reject these excessive tax and fee increases and instead seek solutions that are balanced, sustainable, and do not disproportionately harm working families and small businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully,  
Brandi Gould  
Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon