

Submitter: Michael Cooke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

"I live in Wilsonville. I am a retired disabled veteran. I have lived in Oregon since 1976. I am a registered Independent voter who cares for my adopted state and has voted in every election. Today, I am deeply concerned about the currently proposed transportation tax bill. Families like mine are already stretched very thin. Any additional taxes and fees would make daily life unaffordable and could force even more Oregonians into poverty and homelessness. ODOT must also tighten its belt and reexamine its priorities. ODOT should refocus its spending and prioritize keeping Oregonians safe on the road. They can only do that if they are allowed more flexibility in their funding. They have the money; please give them the tools that they require to be successful for Oregon. Please carefully consider available alternatives that don't financially punish Oregonians."

ODOT can and must refocus their spending to prioritize core road maintenance – fill the potholes, plow the snow, and most importantly, keep all Oregonians safe. With billion-dollar budget blunders, misguided priorities, runaway costs and unfinished projects, ODOT must first focus on rebuilding trust with Oregonians. Trust, once lost, can never again be fully regained. There will always be some measure of lingering doubt.

Should this disastrous unnecessary transportation abomination pass the legislature and become law, I will consider such an outcome to be a complete betrayal of Oregon and our nation by the Democratic Party. Should that come to pass, rest assured that I will never again be able to ethically vote for any Democratic candidate or party proposal. Please choose wisely! Thank you!

Respectfully,

Michael R. Cooke