

Submitter: Barbara Roach  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or LC 2  
Topic:

Why I oppose Gov. Kotex tax bill

- \* Excessive cost burden: Critics argue that the proposed tax and fee increases would disproportionately harm economically vulnerable residents, especially those in rural areas who depend on driving.
- \* Lack of ODOT accountability: Opponents highlight ODOT's history of fiscal mismanagement, including significant accounting errors and project cost overruns. They argue that the bill provides billions in new revenue without meaningful reforms or assurances that taxpayer money will be spent wisely.
- \* Misuse of funds: Some have accused the bill of diverting a portion of the tax revenue to "pet projects" and transit subsidies rather than focusing solely on necessary road and bridge maintenance.
- \* Alternative proposals ignored: Republicans in the legislature have put forward alternative plans that would fund road projects by reallocating money from existing state programs, such as those for electric vehicles, buses, and climate initiatives, instead of raising new taxes.
- \* Referendum threat: Opponents have indicated they would send the tax increase to a statewide public vote, a strategy that has successfully defeated past Oregon gas tax hikes.