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

Testimony Opposing the Transportation Funding Bill

To the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

Dear Members of the Committee,

I urge you to reject the proposed transportation funding bill. While I agree that Oregon's infrastructure needs attention, this plan unfairly shifts the burden onto working families, punishes gas users, and avoids accountability for how ODOT has managed funds in the past.

Burden on Families

The bill raises gas taxes, doubles registration fees, increases title fees, and hikes payroll taxes. For working families already struggling with the cost of living, these increases mean less money for food, housing, and healthcare. Rural residents and commuters will feel this burden most.

Gas Users Should Not Be Punished

This plan assumes gas users should pay more because EV adoption is growing. Yet many families cannot afford to buy electric vehicles. Higher gas taxes unfairly penalize those who depend on affordable gas-powered cars for work and daily life.

Comparable Spending With Surrounding States

Oregon already spends about the same on road maintenance as our neighboring states when adjusted for population and lane miles. The issue is not a lack of taxpayer contributions but how those funds are used.

Misplaced Priorities

ODOT has diverted funds to projects that will not begin for years, leaving today's maintenance needs unmet. Reallocating money from long-term megaprojects to urgent repairs would reduce the need for new taxes.

Executive Compensation

Many state agency heads, including ODOT leadership, earn over \$200,000 annually. Asking working families to pay more while executives take home such salaries is deeply unfair.

The Need for an Audit

ODOT's budget has grown nearly 60% in the past decade, yet very little has gone directly to road maintenance. An independent audit is essential to determine where funds have gone, identify inefficiencies, and restore public trust before asking Oregonians for more.

Conclusion

This bill asks families to sacrifice without first proving that ODOT has managed resources responsibly. I urge you to:

1. Reallocate funds from delayed projects.
 2. Review excessive executive pay.
 3. Commission a full audit of ODOT before raising taxes.
 4. Have ev drivers pay what gas drivers pay we already pay 40 cents per gallon in tax
- Oregon deserves a transportation plan that is fair, transparent, and accountable. This bill fails that test.