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

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Roads support commerce and worker commutes. Commerce and jobs are where tax revenues come from. Roads are one of your PRIMARY responsibilities as the legislative authority. Speaker Fahey is quoted (OR Capital Chronicle) claiming, "Our economy and local communities depend on safe and reliable roads and bridges". Yet rather than allocating that money first, you took care of the "camera ready kindnesses" like free medical for unauthorized migrants and other woke priorities first.

You ran out of tax money before you could pay for roads and bridges. Now you want back at the trough with new taxes, threatening our roads and DOT workers' jobs. You already told DOT employees they would be furloughed, but of course held back so the DOT workers are motivated to lobby for the new taxes.

Oregon citizens are taxed at higher rates than most of the other states, yet the services delivered to Oregon tax-paying citizens are simultaneously worse than other states. For example, Oregon spends \$19,367 per K-12 student, but national standardized testing shows our fourth-graders are worse off than even Alabama and Mississippi's students. Neighbor Idaho spends only \$9387 per student, and their students rank higher than ours.

Total spending: According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Oregon spends \$12,677 per resident. Similarly populated states spending per resident are Utah (\$6812), Connecticut (\$11,686), Oklahoma (\$7207), Louisiana (\$9376), Kentucky (\$10,908) and Alabama (\$7924).

You are spending Mercedes money and delivering Yugo results.

We can't afford more woke priorities and legislated dependency. You can take money from the "Innovative Mobility", "Community Paths" and bike lanes programs and redirect for roads and bridges because the majority of tax-paying workers drive. You aren't removing existing pathways, just holding off on new ones. That is close to \$100 Million.

The so-called "Healthier Oregon" program is providing free medical care for 105,000 unauthorized immigrants (\$1.5 Billion). That is a magnet for more dependents. We have our own poor. And of course, you fund organizations to "help" all those drug

addicts who arrived after your associates talked Oregon into Measure 110. Been downtown lately? Not working.

Find the money somewhere else than our wallets. Employers and skilled workers are already leaving for better states. Roads are one of your PRIMARY responsibilities, not an afterthought. You should have handled them first.

Thank you.

Thomas Hope