

Submitter: Kathy Wilmot

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Testimony against Tina Kotek's transportation plan to increase taxes and fees. Oregon residents are tired of paying more and have nothing to show for it. This happened in 2017 as well and now they are demanding more money or face the threats of dire consequences. Existing funds need to be reallocated without increasing taxes and fees. The legislature needs to change the laws to enable funds to be reallocated. Over the last 10 years, ODOT's budget has increased about 60% (much of that from the 2017 funding bill which increased the gas tax, raised fees, and instituted a statewide payroll tax for transit). Sound familiar? In the last 2 years these taxes and fees raised almost \$1 Billion. Yet, only \$23 Million (2.3%) is all that is allocated to maintenance. The State needs to not only change the priorities of allocation of funds from projects to preservation, maintenance, and operation, but also from transit, bike and pedestrian, from EV rebates, climate, and DEI. In addition, Kotek's plan asks the legislature to hand over its authority to raise taxes allowing hikes to be made without their vote. So much money can be used much more effectively to benefit more Oregonians and not just special interest. There is money, just spend it wisely. Quit punishing the residents of Oregon for terrible management, which raises costs on everything making life in this beautiful state difficult, unfriendly, and un-affordable.