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

Testimony Opposing HB3402

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We're speaking today as rural residents of Jackson County, Oregon, public records researchers, and coalition advocates deeply concerned about the unchecked expansion of ODOT's revenue authority under HB3402. This bill asks taxpayers to trust an agency that has repeatedly failed to deliver on its promises—without offering the accountability tools we need to verify outcomes.

As highlighted in the Oregon Live opinion published August 24, 2025, ODOT has a documented pattern of overpromising and under delivering. Projects balloon in cost, timelines slip, and rural communities like ours are left behind. The article rightly calls out the political influence of transportation contractors and PACs, whose campaign contributions shape policy more than public need. HB3402 would deepen that imbalance.

Let us be clear: this is not just a funding bill. It's a structural shift in how Oregon prioritizes infrastructure—and who benefits. Without public-facing dashboards, regional equity audits, and donor influence maps, we're flying blind. The legislature must demand performance metrics before expanding ODOT's authority.

We urge you to reject HB3402 until it includes:

- A statewide transparency portal tracking ODOT spending, contractor performance, and regional equity
- Mandatory cross-referencing of campaign finance and lobbying data for all transportation-linked PACs
- Statutory safeguards to ensure rural and low-income communities receive proportional investment

We deserve infrastructure policy that serves the public—not just the politically connected.

Thank you.