

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

Dear Chair & Committee Members,

I am adamantly OPPOSED to the passage of any additional funds for Transportation. The cost of living in Oregon is incredibly high as it is because of taxation from our property to the fuel put into our vehicles. I find it incredibly disturbing that any legislator in this State would support the passage of outstandingly high title and registration fees at the DMV, doubling the payroll tax on our paychecks, and increasing the gas tax once more to an incredibly high value. Working class and retired Oregonians cannot afford this massive tax-and-spend proposal.... it would cost Oregon families across this state an estimated \$5.8 billion over 10 years.

There is absolutely NO REASON to threaten the layoffs of ODOT workers and there is ABSOLUTELY NO REASON to not keep our roads safe. Since 2010, Oregon's gas tax has grown faster than inflation. In 2017, you all shifted money away from basic maintenance and into shiny new projects laced with buzzwords like "climate justice" and "restorative justice". These projects don't fill potholes or plow snow. They burn cash while our roads crumble.

Independent analysis shows Oregon already spends about the same per capita on transportation as our neighbors. Yet, instead of asking where the money is going, our Governor is pushing for higher taxes and fees. ODOT has a priorities problem. And that means we can fix it without raising taxes. Even more troubling is a draft bill that says beginning in 2030, if the Legislature fails to act, the Dept of Admin Svcs (DAS) could hike fuel taxes and weight-mile rates administratively. That means unelected bureaucrats - not our elected representatives - would have the power to raise our taxes!

Oregonians are WATCHING WHO approves this incredibly unnecessary taxation on it's people. A 6 cent gas tax hike and doubling of the payroll transit tax may sound small in Salem, but for working Oregonians who commute and travel to job sites, that adds up to hundreds of dollars a year. It's a hidden tax on rural communities, retired people, and the middle class.

Oregon doesn't need higher taxes! We need leaders willing to set priorities and live within their means. It's time to VOTE OUT WHOMEVER approves this taxation on the people!

Respectfully,
Donna Torres