

To The Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,

Please accept this as my written testimony. My name is Sheri Kropholler. I live in Klamath Falls and I am adamantly opposed to the currently proposed transportation bill that has been brought to this Special Session today. This bill will hurt Oregon families and the state's future. It demonstrates a blindness by the state's government to the plight of the struggling families that rely on their government to make decisions that are in their best interest.

Oregon mentality.

25 states in this beautiful country have recently chosen to lower at least one form of public tax to ease the economic burden of the residents. Almost **half** of the United States of America! These states include: AL, AK, CO, CT, FL, KS, KY, MA, NJ, OH, PA, TX, UT, WY, IN, IA, LA, MS, MO, NE, NH, NM, NC, SC and WV. These states have reach out to their communities, not with platitudes and empty promises, but with honest solutions for families struggling to make ends meet. Unfortunately, Oregon is not on this list. Oregon's government has continued to ignore the fate the families that call it "home".

These decisions do not just affect the families that live here currently but also serve as a deterrent to the families and businesses considering moving to Oregon. Oregon's growth rate of less than 0.5% is among the smallest in the country. This affects everything from home sales to creation of new jobs for Oregon families further perpetuating the current depressed economy.

Budgets.

As the state's inflation continues to sky rocket, Oregon families are being forced to make tough choices, tightening budgets and prioritizing where and how their limited resources are spent. We have had to take a hard look at our expenses; eliminating the non-essentials to focus on the meat and potatoes necessary to run our households. The things we would like to do are being placed on pause for the things we must do. I ask the question that many Oregonians are asking; Why can we not ask that our government agencies do the same?

Oversight.

The need for oversight is not limited to the family budget. Due to the ever-increasing number of departments, each with their own jurisdictions, public and government agencies have an even greater need for oversight. If the public can see the gross waist why can its' government not? For example, last winter in Klamath Falls there were snow plows focusing on clearing the fog line on otherwise clear rural roads on a weekend. Meanwhile, the city of Klamath Falls had high-use streets leading to much needed businesses that were either a literal ice-skating rink without a grain of gravel or simply impassable from snow buildup, all without a plow in sight. This single example is neither an isolated event nor a symptom of a lack of funding. Could the answer be

that there are too many layers and none of them communicate? Are these agencies held accountable to the results of their budget spending? Do the families of Oregon not deserve to know where the money they paid for this service went? But instead of investigating the cause, the State of Oregon is considering throwing more money, that is not their own, at the problem.

The Threat.

Mayhem and unemployment. As the question of accountability was ask, the threat of roads left in disrepair, bridges falling, lay-offs and dangerous winter conditions began. Let's use some real, unbiased data like the statistic from the Brookings Institution's Tax Policy Center or the Census Bureau instead of scare tactics based upon doctored data.

The function of the Oregon Department of Transportation is to ensure that Oregonian families get to where they need to be safely. Period! This is the total purpose of this agency. This is what we have paid already for. Let's get back to the meat and potatoes of keeping people safe!

Thank you for your time.

Sheri Kropholler