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

I am strongly opposed to the Oregon transportation funding initiative. Although I understand the need for better roads and infrastructure, this proposal places an unfair burden on hardworking families and local businesses. The proposed tax hikes—whether on fuel, vehicle registration, or other fees—hit hardest at those who can least afford it. For rural and low income Oregonians, these costs add up quickly, forcing them to choose between basic necessities and keeping their vehicles on the road. Many people are already struggling as it is. This initiative would squeeze their budgets even further, making it harder for them to make ends meet.

In addition, I am skeptical about how these funds will be managed. Oregon's track record on transportation projects doesn't project fiscal responsibility —think of the millions spent on projects that ballooned over budget or delivered underwhelming results. Without rock-solid accountability and transparency, there is no guarantee this new revenue won't be mismanaged or funneled into pet projects that don't serve the public's needs. Why should we trust that this time will be different?

Instead of piling on more taxes, the state should focus on cutting wasteful spending, maximizing existing funds, and explore pioneering solutions such as public-private partnerships or federal grants.

I love Oregon and want to see our infrastructure flourish, but this initiative feels like a blunt instrument that punishes working-class Oregonians while offering no clear plan for success. We deserve better—a solution that prioritizes efficiency, fairness, and accountability over knee-jerk tax increases. I urge this committee and fellow Oregonians to vote no and demand a smarter approach to our transportation challenges.