

August 24, 2025

Re: August Special Session.

To Our Oregon Legislators and Governor Kotek,

I am writing to again voice opposition against the proposed higher taxes and fees the Governor is proposing. We are a family of eligible voters in Oregon and want those that are supposed to represent us to hear our voices. Again, we say NO MORE!

There are ways to fund ODOT without putting the burden on the people. I believe there was a bill proposed to do that very thing that never made it to committee. I would suggest revisiting it. Working together to get that passed through. It would fund ODOT for the next two years without heaping additional financial burdens on the public. It would not require any essential workers to be laid off. If you truly work for the people look at what was proposed, work in a bipartisan way and together fund ODOT for the next two years while you investigate a better way. Maybe we need someone else in charge that can control costs without laying off essential workers. We see that ODOT still can fund some jobs and are actively seeking to hire. There are millions set aside in their budget for “equity”, but not the essential workers? ODOT constantly runs short of funding for projects. When things cost millions more than proposed, who holds them accountable for the cost over runs? Where are the receipts? Is it because of the ridiculous rules and mandates of red tape and procedures that cause the cost overrun? Bad oversight? A large hole in the money bucket? That needs to be investigated. Do not just heap more taxes on the people. We need answers.

I hear words from Governor Kotek and others within the Legislature that you “speak for the people.” I would have to respectfully disagree and have to say, no, you don’t. What I have seen so far is you push through things that many people disagree with. Using extortion tactics. Shouting down legislators that disagree with you then pushing forward legislative bills that would strip away the voters’ voices. That is not okay. Do not give the Governor the power to be the only voice to appoint someone to lead ODOT. Handing ODOT the keys to raise gas taxes? NO WAY! This is NOT okay with the people. Nor is it ok to diminish our voices to speak out and vote on legislation. You should not have that power. Democrat or Republican. The citizens of Oregon deserve better.

The money we pay in taxes is wasted in so many ways. There is a very long list that we feel is criminal waste, mismanagement and misuse of taxpayer funds. Taxpayer funds are being thrown down an endless drain hole. The list is long, and it is not just ODOT. There are many concerns that need to be reversed. Where is common sense? Many in the legislature seem not to be bothered by that we find infuriating. We need accountability and

results driven funding for many entities receiving taxpayer funds. For you, those who have been given the privilege to be in office to work for the people, we demand that you be diligent and be good stewards of the funds that the people of Oregon have entrusted to you. We the people should have a voice where those funds go. There is so much that should never have been funded. Ever wonder why businesses are leaving Oregon? Why are many taxpayers leaving the state? Who are you going to tax when those that pay the majority of the taxes leave and all you have left is welfare recipients and drug addicted street people? No farms or ranches to help feed the population. Are you part of the problem or are you willing to work on a solution?

The Jones Family Eugene Oregon