

Submitter: Richard Wisner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

25 August 2025

Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

Re: Transportation funding

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Wagner and Representative Fahey, Co-Vice Chairs Senator Bonham and Representative Drazan, and members of the Committee:

Despite the fact that we're continuously told that "our voices matter", I am not convinced. When this legislation passes, which it undoubtedly will, as a consequence of our politically lop-sided legislature, and despite a clear voice of the people clamoring against it, it will join the long list of our current legislative majority not listening to it's constituents.

Yet here I am again registering my voice in opposition. I don't regard the state's inability to manage finances nor the unsurprising effects of bad government policy as a crisis. It's beginning to seem normal.

The government apparently sees us citizens as some sort of funding machine, else why the never-ending cry for more taxes? As if we are made of money. If indeed there is a genuine crisis – it is of (y)our own making – the legislators and the departments and agencies it oversees.

No society or culture or civilization in the history of the entire world became prosperous by leveling more and more taxes upon it's citizenry. ODOT, just like us simple, everyday citizens, must tighten it's belt when the going gets tough. We hear from the loyal opposition that there are other sources of funding for the grand plans of ODOT. Apparently none are being considered.

The only thing supporters of this piece of legislation are considering are raising taxes and fees. The standard solution to every perceived problem. Not very bright thinking. Not original in the least bit. Not bold. Just the same ol' same ol'. And the results are sure to be the same as well. Down the road (pun intended) the legislature will be clamoring for yet more taxes.

No. No tax and fee increases. Find the funding elsewhere. Use the money already

available.

Sincerely,

Richard Wisner