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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
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Oregon is becoming a place where people do not want to live or do business because of our tax structures. We give away thousands of dollars of benefits to people that are not truly in need, and now you want to tax those of us that are trying to live and work here with MORE taxes?? You need to figure out how to spend the tax dollars you are already collecting in a better way. For example, let's quit giving handouts to people through the Oregon Trail card program, so that they can buy Pepsi and Cheetos and bottled water. How about we start requiring some proof of need for this program, and limit the items you can purchase to the same things that SNAP recipients get? And maybe a drug test before your card gets renewed. This seems like common sense to me. I'm not sure how much money that would save, but it's all economics.

Should we be charging people more for gas or making other transportation more attractive (rebates for efficient vehicles, programs for carpoolers, bicycle miles rebates). Seems like Ride-Share and other programs might help out in the big cities where traffic is bad. I live in a small rural area - we don't have traffic issues, but we DO have to travel a lot for health care, so now you want to make THAT even more expensive by upping gas prices. Gee, thanks for that. If you had to drive two hours to a medical specialist, would you want to pay more for gas too?? How about a program that lets people deduct their mileage to and from work, but not for all the "extra" trips that people like to make - running their kids 4 blocks to school every morning, making sporadic trips all over, or driving like a maniac instead of within the speed limit (you know, the people that are wasting gas). My insurance company tracks my trips, how about we try and get some REAL DATA about where gas is being wasted, and tax THAT instead of everyone that is trying to be efficient because we can't afford to waste money?? Oh, and I see lots of California and Washington license plates on the roads, these are the people that are driving like maniacs on the highways and around town - maybe we could have a border station to collect a special toll from those folks, since they don't have to pay the high Oregon taxes on everything else!

I'm all for helping people out that need a hand up temporarily or making sure seniors and disabled people on fixed incomes still have enough money to eat, but we need to take a hard look at some of the programs that cost a lot of money and figure out how to cut some of the waste there before we just start making more taxes on everyone who is already struggling to get by! And ODOT shouldn't have their funding cut - this is safety and infrastructure! Cut the fat somewhere else!