

Testimony Opposing Increased Transportation Taxes & Fees

The problem is not revenue, but mismanagement. ODOT does not know how to bring a project in on budget and on time. Until this changes, this is wallpapering over an ever-growing chasm to throw taxpayer money into.

It is aided and abetted by gold-plated designs for major projects pushed by politicians, like the I-5 replacement bridge in Portland across the Columbia River. Another example is using Federal pay requirements on all jobs across Oregon, where they are not legally-required under Federal law but reward union contractors and labor. Then there is PERS, which continues to wolf down larger and larger bites of tax dollars.

The State has shown that it cannot manage big projects whether Obamacare websites (\$325 million and no product), new computer systems (Employment Division), DMV (illegals on voter rolls), etc., etc., etc. It's time to make-do and manage our resources effectively – not use higher taxes to duck responsibility for efficient management of limited resources. CNBC already says that Oregon is one of the least business-friendly states in the country. Keep it up and the worry won't be squeezing more taxes out of a weary public, but rather dealing with a run for the exits by anyone with half a brain.

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