

Submitter: Jennifer Byington
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2
Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a concerned Oregon resident regarding the state's transportation funding priorities. I urge you to oppose any additional taxes or fees on Oregon families and businesses. Before asking taxpayers for more money, a full and independent audit of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) should be conducted to identify where costs can be reduced and efficiencies gained.

Oregonians are already being forced to adjust their household budgets due to the rising cost of living. Gas prices remain high, auto insurance rates have climbed, and the cost of vehicles is more expensive than ever. Even when families try to move to more fuel-efficient vehicles by purchasing plug-in hybrid or electric vehicles, the rising cost of electricity due to yearly increases in utility rates cancels out much of the savings that would have come from using less gas.

ODOT must be held accountable to the public, and funding should be prioritized for the most essential needs: repairing and maintaining our roads and bridges. These are the backbone of commerce, safety, and daily life in Oregon. New projects and administrative overhead should not take precedence over the critical infrastructure that people rely on every single day.

I respectfully ask that the Committee:

- Commit to no new taxes or fees until an independent audit of ODOT is completed and made available to the public.
- Require ODOT to identify and implement cost-saving measures before requesting additional revenue.
- Protect and prioritize essential workers and maintenance crews over unnecessary administrative growth or program that are not part of essential transportation for the state.
- Ensure that fixing and maintaining existing roads and bridges remains the top priority for transportation funding.

Oregonians already shoulder a heavy tax burden, one of the highest in the country. What we need is accountability, transparency, and a commitment to spend existing

funds more wisely. I urge you to put the needs of taxpayers first and ensure our transportation system is safe, reliable, and responsibly managed.

Thank you for your time and your service to our state.

Sincerely,
J. Byington