

Submitter: Lynn Jackson
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed ODOT funding plan, which includes raising the gas tax to 46 cents per gallon, increasing car registration fees by \$42, raising title fees by \$139, doubling the payroll tax for transit, and imposing a \$30 surcharge on electric and fuel-efficient vehicles. While I understand the need to fund transportation infrastructure, I believe this proposal has significant drawbacks that warrant reconsideration.

First, these tax and fee increases place an undue financial burden on Oregon families, especially those already struggling with high fuel prices and inflation. Oregon's gas prices are among the highest in the nation, and adding 6 cents per gallon to the gas tax will further strain household budgets without guaranteeing visible improvements like new roads or bridges. Second, the plan risks economic harm by potentially driving businesses out of state due to higher transportation costs, which could raise prices for goods and services. Third, Section 12's provision allowing ODOT to automatically adjust fees starting in 2030 hands too much power to unelected officials, reducing legislative oversight and risking unchecked increases. Finally, the focus on maintenance over new infrastructure fails to deliver tangible benefits to justify the added costs.

I urge the committee to explore alternatives, such as reallocating existing funds, to address ODOT's needs without further taxing Oregonians. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Lynn Jackson