

Submitter: Chad Rogers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding  
Measure, Appointment or LC 2  
Topic:  
From the desk of -  
Chad Rogers  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
Date: August 25, 2025

Dear Joint interim committee on Transportation Funding,

I am a resident of Oregon City, and I am writing to strongly oppose Governor Kotek's proposed transportation tax package, which includes a \$0.06 gas tax increase, \$139 title fee hike, \$42 registration fee increase, doubled payroll tax for the State Transportation Improvement Fund, a new \$30 registration fee for electric vehicles (EVs) and fuel-efficient vehicles, and a Road User Charge (RUC) for EVs, hybrids, and other efficient vehicles. As a daily commuter to Tualatin, I am already bracing for proposed tolls on my route, which have been delayed but loom on the horizon. This package places an undue burden on Oregonians and risks harming our state's economy and quality of life.

First, these taxes unfairly target working families and small businesses. The cumulative impact of increased gas taxes, registration fees, title fees, and payroll taxes will strain household budgets, especially for those already grappling with rising costs for essentials like housing, groceries, and healthcare. For example, the \$0.06 gas tax increase and \$30 EV fee disproportionately affect rural residents and commuters who rely on their vehicles daily, with no viable public transit alternatives in many areas. The doubled payroll tax further squeezes small businesses, potentially leading to reduced hiring or layoffs, driving jobs out of Oregon at a time when economic stability is critical.

Second, the proposed taxes, combined with the impending tolls, create a layered financial burden that feels punitive. Oregonians are being asked to pay more at every turn—when we fuel up, register our vehicles, or simply drive to work. The RUC, in particular, penalizes those who have invested in fuel-efficient or electric vehicles to reduce their environmental impact, undermining the state's own sustainability goals. This approach risks discouraging innovation and adoption of greener technologies, sending mixed signals to environmentally conscious citizens.

Instead of raising taxes, I urge you to prioritize fiscal responsibility and explore

alternative solutions. Oregon's budget should be balanced by reallocating existing funds, cutting wasteful spending, and ensuring that transportation projects deliver measurable benefits to legal Oregon residents. For example, improving the efficiency of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) through better project management and cost oversight could free up resources without burdening taxpayers. Additionally, investing in affordable, accessible public transit options would reduce road congestion and provide equitable alternatives to driving, particularly for low-income families.

As a taxpayer, I want my representatives to put the needs of Oregon citizens first. The proposed tax package risks making life harder for working families, driving businesses out of state, and stifling economic growth. I respectfully ask that you reject these tax increases and focus on solutions that support Oregonians without adding to our financial strain. Thank you for considering my concerns, and I look forward to your leadership in creating a fair and sustainable transportation plan.

Sincerely,  
Chad Rogers