

August 25, 2025

Co-Chairs Wagner and Fahey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LC 2. My name is James Anderson and I've worked as an ODOT Incident Response Specialist for 6 years. All of the ODOT Maintenance team helps support everyone in the state. We help to keep critical life lines open during the most difficult times. There isn't a single resident or traveler visiting our beautiful state that doesn't navigate our state highways. We assist other state and local agencies from traffic incident traffic control so our emergency responders can focus on patient care, to removing hazards year around so medical has a clear path to the patients in need, and the power company can reach downed power lines and restore life saving power during storms.

We help keep our major highways in metropolitan areas flowing during high traffic volumes and ease congestion. Rural cities and towns depend on us for access to basic needs during storms year around and we may be the closest help or the first on scene to an accident or event. Without ODOT Maintenance crews filling these needs, people around the state's cities and towns will feel the pain with delays in food deliveries during storms as well as fuel deliveries to gas stations, potentially leaving motorists stranded and without much needed supplies. These are just some of the problems we already face on a smaller scale with the reductions already currently in place. The State of Oregon can't stand to lose any more of our maintenance workers. Not only do our workers need their jobs but the public shouldn't have to be without them and the level of service they provide to keep everyone safe both behind the scenes and on the forefront.

A fully funded ODOT brings better roads to our state as well as help when and where it is needed. It would bring back crew sizes to a level of safety that is much needed with the ever growing number of vehicles using our state highway systems. Rural Oregon would keep the remote stations that in some areas are the closest help during emergencies. Business' benefit from having roads repaired so their customers can reach them in a timely manner, employees can get to work, and there is less damage to the vehicles themselves. ODOT is often asked to cover the cost of the damage caused to vehicles from things like a major pothole when not repaired in a timely manner. A fully staffed and functioning crew can address these needs and much more. Reduced crews are not safe overall and when workers are out sick not having enough people to cover the positions can be problematic. Let's give the motoring public the service they deserve and expect from their hard earned tax dollars, safe roadways, up to spec bridges, accidents attended to, snow plowed in a timely manner, and keep them as safe as we possibly can. The more hands on deck, the more efficient we can be.

Please vote in support of this proposal and invest in ODOT to keep Oregon safe and moving forward.

Thank you,

James Anderson