



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

August 25, 2025

Subject: Opposition to Payroll Tax Increase and Section 12 in Governor's Transportation Package

Dear President Wagner, Speaker Fahey, and Members of the Joint Transportation Funding Committee,

I'm writing as someone who lives and works in Oregon, and who cares deeply about the future of our communities. I'm urging you to reject two parts of the Governor's transportation package: the payroll tax increase and the proposal that gives the Governor and ODOT the power to raise gas taxes and fees without a real vote of the Legislature.

Why the Payroll Tax Hurts

Our families and small businesses are already doing their best to make ends meet. Costs are up everywhere—housing, groceries, electricity, fuel. Doubling the payroll tax means taking even more out of workers' paychecks and piling new costs onto employers. For many of us in rural Oregon, this isn't just a line on a budget—it's the difference between hiring or not hiring, between making rent or falling behind.

Why Section 12 is Dangerous

Section 12 hands unelected ODOT officials the power to raise gas taxes and truck fees if the Legislature doesn't act in 120 days. That's not accountability—that's taxation without representation. Our Constitution requires a three-fifths legislative vote on new taxes for a reason: so that decisions are debated openly and made with the people's voice in mind. Stripping away that safeguard erodes trust in government and makes working Oregonians feel like their voices don't matter.

There's a Better Way

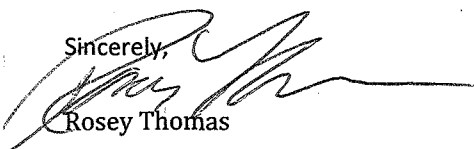
We all want safe roads and strong infrastructure. But the solution isn't more taxes pushed through the back door. The L2 Amendment is a far better option. It protects taxpayers, keeps power where it belongs—with the Legislature—and ensures real transparency in how transportation dollars are raised and spent.

In Closing

Please stand with Oregon families and small businesses. Reject the payroll tax hike. Reject Section 12. Let's find solutions that invest in transportation without breaking the backs of the people who keep this state moving.

Thank you for your service and for listening to the voices of your constituents.

Sincerely,


Rosey Thomas

Executive Director
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce