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

Good morning Chair and members of the committee,

I live in Central Oregon with my husband and our three young children. We're a one-income family, and every decision we make about money has to be careful.

My husband drives forty-five minutes each way to work. When we need to see the chiropractor or buy groceries in bulk to save money, that's an hour drive each way. Driving isn't optional for us...it's just part of living where we do. That's why proposals like this feel especially punishing to rural Oregonians.

A six-cent increase at the gas pump might not sound like much, but when you add it up over hundreds of miles a week, it takes a real bite out of our budget. DMV fees are already over \$500 when it comes time to renew our vehicles, and this bill nearly doubles them. On top of that, the payroll tax increase means even less take-home pay for my husband, when his paycheck already has to stretch to cover everything for our family of five.

We simply can't afford more. Oregon can't keep solving its budget problems by raising taxes and fees on working families, especially those of us in rural areas who have no choice but to drive long distances. Enough is enough. We need the state to cut waste and rein in spending at the top, not make ordinary families shoulder more of the burden.

Please don't balance the transportation budget on the backs of Oregonian families. We have cut unnecessary spending out of our budget and the State can do that too!

Thank you for listening.