

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

As a School Board Director for the Roseburg School District, I strongly oppose LC 0002, the proposed transportation bill for Oregon's 2025 Special Session, as it imposes undue financial strain on our students, families, and school operations without addressing critical educational needs. The steep tax increases—including raising the fuel tax from 34¢ to 46¢ per gallon, nearly doubling vehicle registration fees (e.g., from \$43 to \$85 for passenger cars), hiking title fees from \$77 to \$216, doubling the employer transit payroll tax from 0.1% to 0.2%, and introducing a mandatory per-mile road usage charge for EVs and hybrids phased in from 2027—would directly inflate costs for our district's school bus fleet, forcing budget cuts that could reduce routes, limit extracurricular activities, or increase class sizes amid already tight funding. Our rural families in Roseburg, many of whom rely on personal vehicles to get children to school due to limited public transit options, would face heightened economic hardship, exacerbating barriers to education access and attendance. Moreover, the power expansions—such as shifting ODOT Director appointments to the Governor, expanding the Joint Committee on Transportation's oversight on local projects, enlarging the Continuous Improvement Advisory Committee with unelected experts, and authorizing ODOT to automatically adjust taxes from 2030 if the legislature fails to act—erode local accountability and risk sidelining school district priorities in favor of centralized bureaucratic control. The potential for waste, through new audits, committees, quarterly reporting, and costly per-mile tracking infrastructure, further diverts resources from essential services like education, perpetuating ODOT's mismanagement without guaranteeing benefits for our community's youth. I urge lawmakers to reject this measure and pursue fiscally responsible solutions that support, rather than burden, Oregon's schools and families.