

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

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed transportation package being considered in the upcoming Special Session.

I recognize and value the importance of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the essential work it performs to keep Oregonians safe on the road. Well-maintained highways, reliable freight routes, and safe travel corridors are critical for rural communities like mine, where citizens travel greater distances for work, health care, education, and basic services.

My concern lies not with the need for a sustainable transportation system, but with the disproportionate burden this package places on rural residents and businesses. Increased gas taxes, higher DMV fees, the implementation of a Road Usage Charge, and increase of the payroll tax will add substantial new costs at a time when families and employers are already struggling. Meanwhile, much of the proposed funding is directed toward urban transit systems in Portland and Salem, leaving rural Oregonians to pay more while seeing little direct benefit.

I urge you to seek a solution that both addresses ODOT's funding needs and distributes costs in a more equitable way across Oregon's diverse communities. Rural Oregon cannot afford to shoulder higher costs without corresponding investments in our roads, bridges, and freight infrastructure.

I ask that you reject this package in its current form and work toward a balanced approach that ensures safe, well-funded transportation for all Oregonians—urban and rural alike.