

Submitter: Sara Wright

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation
Funding,

My name is Sara Wright, and I am a resident of Bend, Oregon. I am writing in opposition to the Governor's proposal to raise gas taxes, registration fees, title fees, and to double the state's payroll tax for transit.

Oregonians are already struggling with rising costs of housing, food, utilities, and fuel. Increasing taxes and fees at this time will place an even greater burden on working families, small businesses, and rural residents who have no choice but to drive long distances for work, school, and medical care. These increases will not only hit household budgets, but will also drive up the cost of goods and services across our economy.

No one disputes that safe roads, bridges, and transit systems are essential to our state. However, even the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has publicly stated that layoffs could be avoided by reallocating existing funds. Before asking Oregonians to shoulder hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes and fees, the Legislature should first ensure that existing revenues are being managed efficiently, waste is reduced, and priorities are realigned.

ODOT's financial challenges are the result of declining fuel tax revenue, inflation, and structural inefficiencies. Simply raising taxes without addressing these underlying issues will not provide a sustainable long-term solution. Instead, it risks creating a cycle where Oregonians are asked to pay more and more, while confidence in state government declines.

I urge you to reject this proposal in its current form and instead pursue a solution that prioritizes responsible budgeting, reallocation of funds, and structural reform at ODOT. Oregonians deserve a funding plan that balances the state's infrastructure needs with fairness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your service to our state.

Respectfully,
Sara Wright