

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

I am writing in regard to the upcoming special session that begins on Friday the 29th of August.

As a small business owner in Salem and a citizen I am asking you, legislators and senators to vote NO on any measure that would require us businesses and citizens to pay more taxes. The governor is proposing an increase on payroll taxes and hiking prices on vehicle registrations, title fees, license fees etc. As most local politicians probably know ,Cherriots will also be adding a payroll tax to all citizens/business owners in the Salem/Keizer area beginning in January of 2026. All of these taxes are too much for us to bear. Please consider working to find other ways to get more revenue for the state. If that isn't possible, then Oregon will need to lay off some of its employees, just as I am considering layoffs due to the increased taxes if this measure passes. I have already had to cut back employee hours due to the decline in our business for so many other reasons such as soaring food and labor costs, new paid parking in downtown Salem that has led many to not come downtown any longer. When we are in hard times like these, everyone MUST tighten their belt. Even the state, counties and cities. These taxes cannot just continue to get passed down to us, the citizens, who are all struggling to make ends meet and having to do our own tightening of the belt by cutting employee hours, letting people go and in some cases closing our businesses.

We have been in business for 41 years and this is starting to feel like covid times all over again. Except we have no relief from the government. Just more taxes.

We ask that you take the time to consider our words and that you would take these concerns seriously and consider the "little" people who put you where you are now so you could be our voice. The "people's" voice. Not the governor's voice or the state employees' voice.

Sincerely,

Javier and Xochitl Munoz owners La Margarita Co. Mexican Restaurant