

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

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to respectfully voice my opposition to Governor Kotek's proposed transportation funding package. While I recognize the importance of maintaining Oregon's transportation system, I believe this package places an undue burden on working families and small businesses without first addressing underlying accountability issues.

Before asking Oregonians to pay higher payroll and gas taxes, registration fees, title fees, per-mile usage charges and vehicle surcharges, I urge you to require a comprehensive, independent audit of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Taxpayers deserve to know how existing funds are being spent, where inefficiencies exist, and whether past revenue has been managed responsibly.

In addition, rather than raising taxes, the state should prioritize reallocating funding from other areas such as:

Travel Oregon- 95 million program, which lack strong accountability measures, and have no legislative oversight. The director gets paid 2 times what others with bigger agencies get paid and they voted themselves a 25 plus million budget increase.

The Healthier Oregon program-\$750 million which extends state-funded health care to those here illegally; we shouldn't be funding this at all.

Portions of the \$750 million allocated to address homelessness, much of which was absorbed by administrative costs of multiple layers of government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations, instead of delivering direct housing outcomes.

Redirecting funds from these and many other sources would provide meaningful revenue for transportation without further burdening Oregonians with higher taxes and fees, that they already can't afford. Oregon needs a better accountant and more accountability.

In summary, I urge you to reject this package, and instead prioritize transparency, accountability, and smarter use of existing resources before increasing the financial strain on Oregon families and businesses.