

Bobby, my name is Cristy Gaertner. I live in La Grande, Oregon. We were not able to text in a complaint about this tax hike that our governor wants to impose upon us. So, I'm telling you personally, that I do not want it to go through. ODOT has not been transparent about how they spend their money. Also, why, did they lay off maintenance workers and hire more administrative staff? Are they going to go out and plow our roads when it snows? Please transfer this text to who, or whom it needs to get to, to make a difference. You have my permission to you use my name.

Are you tone deaf? 4 out of 5 people who responded to a KATU poll said they don't want any more taxes! Take the earplugs out of your ears.

Darrell Gulstrom

Dear Oregon Republican Senators and House REps,

I will keep this short, as I'm sure you are getting many emails.

Please do everything possible to stop the upcoming transportation package bill, which would increase many taxes and fees, allow unelected officials to continue to increase fees without any voter input. We the people are with you! We support you. We want you to stand up for us. We know the Republicans have a plan that would not make increases, not cut the jobs of those who are plowing and maintaining our roads, but shift the priorities to what is necessary. We are behind you if you walk out.

It is not enough to show up and vote no, when you know that will mean nothing. The bill will still pass. Don't let it pass!

I am writing because there are many of us that do not have time to write, or show up to protests. People are working hard to feed their families and make ends meet. I speak for them. I hope that you will have the courage to stand up for them. For all of us.

Courage is contagious, so be courageous!

Thank you for all the time and energy you put into representing us. We appreciate you so much.

Very Sincerely,

Karen Schmidlin

Republican House Captain

House District 31

Banks, Oregon

Oregonians are struggling to keep up with all the demands on their finances. We are already struggling with the costs of essential living expenses of rent, utilities, food, and gas having increased so much in the last 5 years. Oregonians can't take any more. Now the endless increases in taxes, fees, permits for more and more things. **It must stop!**

Thankfully, the transportation reinvestment plan did not pass the last legislative session that concluded in June, but once again I am asking you to not pass this bill that further burdens Oregon citizens. **Absolutely no more increases.**

In 2017, ODOT had a 10-year, \$5.6-billion road tax package. After a 10-year, \$5.6 billion road tax package in package, ODOT is now claiming they have had *inadequate funding* for decades. Let's have accountability: Where is all the money going/where has it gone?

Seriously, how can ODOT be underfunded when:

1. Oregon has the 10th highest state gas tax in the nation.
2. The Oregon Gas tax was raised +5% in 2024.
3. Oregon has the Nation's only state wage (transit) tax. This transit tax is harmful to businesses and causes more to close or flee the State.
4. Oregon has the Nation's only state bike tax.
5. The Oregon Legislature approved a new I-5 bridge toll this year.

I recently heard about a plan in the legislature this last session that was given no consideration, which would have returned ODOT to its core function without having an increase. ODOT needs to be audited. They need to focus back to their core mission of building and maintaining roads.

On August 29th, please stand up for your fellow Oregonians and absolutely DO NOT PASS an increase in the gas tax or any fees. We cannot take anymore!

Thank you for your attention on the crucial matter!

Oregon Representative Bobby Levy

I am writing to urge you to vote against the proposed tax increases in the upcoming special session. These increases, including higher gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and a new payroll tax, will disproportionately burden lower-income Oregonians at a time when many of us are barely making ends meet.

Please consider alternatives such as spending less money on non-essential programs, identifying fraud, waste and abuse and utilizing existing funds.

Sincerely,

Chris Silbernagel

Republican Legislators...

A few of us are watching intently... loving what Reps Diehl and Yunker are posting on social media (maybe others are too, but it is hard to keep up).

Funding ODOT because ODOT screwed up is insanity (hope your seeing the connection of putting ODF's HCP into effect and ODF defunding themselves during 321,000 acres of wildfire in 2024).

\$219 Million burden put on taxpayers while ODF managed Timber moves closer to being burned as the NFS lands stolen from us are.

NOT FUNNY... LC 2 proposes a increase from 6 cents per gallon to 12 cents... directly on the backs of citizens.

And look at those licensing fees (this is insane abuse... and for what). \$15 Billion over next 10 yrs will not be \$15 Billion (never is... they will extort more if you let them).

Non profits are a evil liability... why give Cartels \$2.3 Million for a drug rehab ??? THAT IS WORSE THAN GIVING NGO'S \$2 BILLION TOO SAVE HOMELESS. this ain't failure... it is pre meditated and destructive.

\$45 Million for a Willamette Falls over look [what is the cost of that per sq ft ?]

OH AND NOW GIVE THE INDIANS ANOTHER BUILDING AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE !

Oregon citizens... can not sustain the abuse... they are leaving and the Legislature is adding more burden on citizens.

Since a few spineless Republicans will not deny quorum... maybe the floor session aught to be a shit show... just maybe shame the Dems for what they are doing to Oregon... and post that to social media.

Mark

Please consider what your job entails: you are to stand up for Oregonians, not play some political game.

Act like adults and DO THE JOB YOU ARE BEING PAID TO DO. Listen to your constituents.

We do not need more taxes, we need more oversight.

Dear Oregon Legislative Representative,

As a constituent and Oregon resident from McMinnville this letter expresses opposition to new taxes and fees proposed in the upcoming special session for transportation funding. With the high cost of living already affecting Oregon families and businesses, alternative solutions to address the budget deficit in the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are encouraged.

While the need to fund road maintenance and transportation projects is recognized, proposals that increase the cost of living place an undue burden on the community. Specific concern is expressed regarding increased gas taxes, higher vehicle registration fees, mandatory road usage charges and payroll taxes.

These increases would directly impact my family's budget, making it more difficult to afford everyday expenses. The cumulative effect of these financial burdens on residents should be considered.

This tax is estimated to cost the average household \$500 a year or \$42 per month. This is just not realistic in today's economic climate. Every Oregonian is facing rising costs: housing, insurance, utilities, groceries, medical, childcare, gas... nothing has gone down. Credit card debt has skyrocketed. This is not sustainable.

Instead of passing new taxes, other options for filling ODOT's budget hole are encouraged. A solution can be found through more efficient use of existing funds, a reallocation of state budget, or a different revenue-generating approach.

Constituents should be listened to, and any new taxes or fees in the upcoming special session should be opposed. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Terry Conlon

As a resident of Oregon, I encourage you to vote NO on the proposed Transportation Bill being introduced in the Oregon Special Session at the end of the month! Thank you.

August 23, 2025

Dear Oregon Leaders,

As a fourth-generation Oregonian, with several generations of my family still here in Oregon, I am pleading with you to keep our state affordable. Please stand strong for the citizens of Oregon. Do not allow bullying or bribery to push LC 2 through. This is an issue the citizens will remember at election time.

Rose Kaler

I am against all gas tax increases, new taxes, new fees and increases on any fees until ODOT is fully Audited, revamped, management reduced, and priorities are given back to roads for all Oregonians..... there is zero reason for this huge tax increase other than ODOT can't reign themselves in. There is ZERO reason to vote for anyone that is increases

taxes on working Oregonians this much. Challenge them, let them threatened snow plowing, etc..... I don't care. Taxes and fees are already too high.

Cheers,

Elliot

Elliot P Groeneveld, CPA/Principal

Dear Senator/Representative,

I oppose this new destructive tax proposal and encourage you all to vote against it. This hurts all Oregonians, regardless of political affiliation! We can't afford to live now, wages do not meet the financial requirements to live and families are hit the worst, and Kotek wants to raise our taxes?

Instead, what should be happening is a serious look at where our current money is being spent, there should be no money for DEI anything. This ridiculous belief that a person is a better choice because of gender or ethnicity is absolutely absurd, and by forcing us to support it, takes away from the welfare of the people.

Funds for illegal aliens take away from Oregon citizens...we pay the taxes, these people only receive taxpayer funds, they aren't supposed to be here, they get benefits citizens of this state and nation don't even get, how unfair is this to your constituents, and how does it benefit the people of this state and nation? A misplaced belief that these people are more important than your own constituents? This money needs to be redirected to the people that vote and pay taxes.

If this money is not redirected to cover this state's financial shortfalls due to serious mismanagement, the shortfall from a lack of federal funding is going to be extremely hard on us and this hardship will be the fault of the democrats and I can guarantee you, not everyone of your constituents will blame Trump as you will insist he is the bad guy, we will blame you democrats! In the long run, if you support this legislation, more than likely you stand a good chance of not being reelected, don't forget, a win today could cost you dearly tomorrow!

This loss of federal funding is going to be very painful for us, and if you aren't paying

attention, Trump is winning in the courts. This state's democrats do not have the ability to stand against the federal government for federal funds, you may believe you do, but we all know this state can't because we see what's going on in the rest of the nation! If you believe this shortfall for ODOT is bad, wait until the federal funding starts drying, how will you justify that to the people then, because we see what you are doing now. It's only going to get worse if you insist on taking us down this path. You need to stop funding these programs to ensure federal funding continues, divert that money to ODOT.

I encourage you to vote no, not for your jobs, but for the people that live in this state and have to survive here every day!

Sincerely,
Jerry Cumiford

No more taxes if this tax bill passes I will be homeless again I'm disabled and don't have the means to work anymore hours then I do I live within pennies of each paycheck I just got done spending 15 months being homeless in system where everybody including yourselves said there's no support for me a penny more in taxes equals me being homeless as well many more Oregonians

August 22, 2025

I'm deeply concerned about LC 2—it's far worse than I expected. Please, no compromises. Stand strong for the voters of Oregon. Many of us are already overburdened with taxes.

Dear Representative Levy,

I am a resident of southern Oregon and a retired senior citizen struggling to make ends meet with a very small monthly Social Security income.

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposed tax increases, which include a 6-cent hike in the state gas tax, increases in vehicle registration fees, and the expansion of the payroll tax. These proposals are deeply concerning, especially as many Oregonians, myself included, are already struggling with rising living costs. The increase in the gas tax alone will directly impact *everyone*, raising the cost of goods and services for citizens as well as businesses.

I ask you to please consider the House Republicans' alternative plan to fund ODOT by refocusing existing revenue instead of adding billions of dollars in new taxes on struggling Oregonians. You can make the decision to use existing revenue from the emergency board. The agency's jobs will still be protected, as they should be, but without raising taxes.

Furthermore, it is troubling to see the Oregon Department of Transportation being given more funding without a clear commitment to efficiency and accountability. *The Department has already identified areas where they are engaged in work that is not core to their mission, and they have pointed out potential cost savings through reducing spending and addressing vacancies.* I am not alone in my belief that ODOT needs a thorough audit to ensure taxpayer money is being spent effectively, rather than being allocated Carte Blanche.

I strongly urge you to reconsider these tax hikes, look into the alternative plan of using existing revenue from the emergency board and then focus on reducing unnecessary spending within state agencies like the Oregon Department of Transportation. Rather than imposing new burdens on Oregonians, we should prioritize responsible fiscal management and policies that encourage economic growth, and not further financial hardship for Oregon's citizens and her businesses. Thank you for standing up for your fellow Oregonians.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I hope you will reconsider these proposals in favor of more responsible, sustainable solutions for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Martel

I'm writing as your constituent from Marion County to express my strong opposition to Governor Kotek's proposed transportation funding plan set for consideration in the August 29 special session.

My main concerns include:

- **Steep increases in taxes and fees:** The fees are high already!
- **Doubling of the payroll tax:** The transit payroll tax would increase from 0.1% to 0.2%, placing additional burden on workers and employers alike.
- **Equity concerns for EV owners:** Although the previous draft removed the tax on electric delivery vehicles, EV and hybrid owners would still face higher costs and must enroll in the OReGo per-mile program, which seems regressive.
- **Unclear cost estimates and delayed transparency:** Despite partial cost projections, the full analysis of budget implications remains unavailable, leaving too much uncertainty.
- **Insufficient alternatives explored:** There's been minimal consideration of restructuring existing general funds, emergency reserves, or other creative funding sources before imposing broad-based tax hikes. Oregonians are taxed too much as it is. Learn to live within your means like the rest of us have to.

I urge you to oppose this bill unless these critical issues are addressed. Tax increases of this magnitude during a cost-of-living crunch threaten to exacerbate economic strain for everyday Oregonians. Businesses are already leaving Oregon and taking good jobs with them. STOP all these tax and fee hikes!

Thank you for representing our interests and prioritizing fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Thomas, 34 year Marion County Resident

Stand Your Ground. Taxpayers demand accountability of their hard earned tax dollars. PROVE spending these dollars for highest and best use citizens .

Thanks for all you do

Greg Ammer

Senators and Representatives:

NO NEW TAXES, NO NEW FEES, NO NEW FINES, NO NEW COSTS FOR ANYTHING!!

Do the right thing by Oregonians who are struggling to keep up with the costs of everything.

Put yourself in our shoes for once and be honest with us. You know we can't afford anymore costs!!!

I urge you to vote NO!

Thank you

Milton Bernheisel

Oregon born, Oregon raised, Oregon schooled, Oregon worker. I love Oregon and its natural beauty, but hate the policies, the secret politics that are destroying it.

Dear Oregon State Senators and Representatives,

Stay home from the special session this coming week.

Preventing quorum, defeating the passage of this bill is critical to all Oregonians!

The public at large cannot carry any further burden, the ship of State will capsize.

Thank you for your effort for the People.

Greer Trice.

Oregon Representative Bobby Levy

I am writing to urge you to vote against the proposed tax increases in the upcoming special session. These increases, including higher gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and a new payroll tax, will disproportionately burden lower-income Oregonians at a time when many of us are barely making ends meet.

Please consider alternatives such as spending less money on non-essential programs, identifying fraud, waste and abuse and utilizing existing funds.

Sincerely,

Chris Silbernagel

We have no emergency, we have the necessary funds to run ODOT and the government of Oregon, WHEN Kotek and the unions decide to drop their attempts to brainwash all Oregon taxpayers into agreeing with her life choices. You don't run a government based on your own life choices, you are supposed to run it according to the wishes of the working, taxpaying citizens of this state.

We urge you all to STOP PLAYING INTO HER INSANITY, do not agree to anything she or the unions want. Listen to your constituents and be the honest and thoughtful legislators you were voted in to be. PLEASE DO NOT AGREE TO MEET WITH THE DEMS ON THIS BILL. Any needs can be reviewed and better addressed next REGULAR session. This is not an emergency, this is Kotek acting like a 2 year old because she wants money so she can try and continue to shove DEI down our throats and we have had quite enough. Our federal government is doing the right thing, doing what we all asked them to do, so if she won't start listening to her constituents then maybe she will listen when the federal funds are pulled out from under her.

Watching how everyone votes this year and sharing with social media. You have the power to do the right thing.

Regards,

J Carriveau

Oregonians are struggling to keep up with all the demands on their finances. Between essential living expenses of rent, utilities, food, gas, there are endless increases in taxes, fees, permits for more and more things. **It must stop!** Thankfully, the transportation reinvestment plan never passed in the legislative session that concluded in June, but once again I am asking you to not pass this bill that further burdens Oregon citizens. **Absolutely no more increases.**

In 2017, ODOT had a 10-year, \$5.6-billion road tax package. Now ODOT is claiming they have had *inadequate funding* for decades. Let's have accountability: Where is all the money going or where has it gone?

Seriously, how can ODOT be underfunded when:

1. Oregon has the #10 highest state gas tax in the nation.
2. The Oregon Gas tax was raised +5% just last year (2024).
3. Oregon has the Nation's only state wage (transit) tax. The transit tax alone is very harmful to businesses and causes more to close or flee the State.
4. Oregon has the Nation's only state bike tax.
5. Oregon Legislature approved I-5 bridge toll this year.

I just heard about a plan that got no consideration in the legislature this last session, which would have not have had any increase and would have returned ODOT to its core function. That's what must be done. ODOT needs to be audited and held accountable. They need to focus on their core mission to build and maintain roads.

When you convene on August 29th, please stand up for your fellow Oregonians and absolutely DO NOT PASS an increase in the gas tax or any fees.

THANK YOU for your ATTENTION to this very important matter!

Dear Oregon State Legislatures, PLEASE resist the call of the special legislature session to try to pass increased gas taxes, increase vehicle registration and titles fees, supplemental fees for electric cars, and DOUBLING payroll tax for transit. The legislature had already voted these requests down, and for good reasons. Oregon citizens can NOT afford MORE taxes and increased cost of living; we are already one of the HIGHEST TAXED states, and our grocery costs just keep going up. This would be especially detrimental for middle class and low income people, not to mention for BUSSINESS; we already have some big companies leaving, let's not have more. I also think Oregon needs a COMPLETE AUDIT to see where all the money has gone and for corrections to be made ASAP. I understand ODOT had an audit done recently and a Billion dollars was missing; what happened, we need to know! I'd also like to ask why the gas prices in Oregon never go down, when it has considerably decreased across the US?

Again, please consider what is best for the people of Oregon, and resist Gov Kotek unreasonable requests. Lets have better managing of every tax payers dollar.

Thank you for your time, and your service. Etta Gordon Bend Oregon 97703

Dear Representative Levy:

I feel the special session is not needed.

The transportation bill failed in the general session. The republican proposal was not even allowed to be presented and debated. It seems it would have funded ODOT to provide the services citizens of Oregon need.

Any increase in taxes will cause price increases to an already financially stressed population. A 6-cent increase in gas tax will flow through all consumer items, increasing prices. An increase in vehicle registration fees (\$42) and title fees (\$139) will hurt those on a fixed income and the lower income families in our state.

A comprehensive audit of ODOT is needed (both financial and organizationally). It appears those in charged have failed to use public funds efficiently. A case in point is the Abernethy Bridge (a 300% overrun which is not just inflation caused).

Oregon is one of the worst states to do business. It is imperative for the state to attract job creating businesses.

Trust in government (and politicians) is low. Building trust by being fiscally responsible is critical. This special session does not do this.

I oppose this special session. It is a poor use of taxpayer's funds.

Thank you for your consideration:

Larry Dickson

We do not need more taxes on us, what is your end game? to run all company's out of Oregon?

then what no one will have jobs so you can steal more money from us. How will you get paid?

how about you rule with in your means start laying off your staff, cancel your trips on tax payers money, stop funding non essential crap.

is there any of you that has ever had a company? worked for a company? or had a Job that is not a government ?

you are completely destroying our state, is that your Plan? it must be

Representative Levy ,

It would appear ODOT is being used as an excuse to raise taxes and or fees on the premise that if they don't get more funds our winter travel will become dangerous since ODOT won't be able to take care of the hazardous roads. This is of course a knee jerk fear tactic.

Basically the legislature can reallocate other monies and emergency funds to ensure this doesn't happen. None of this requires

raising taxes or fees which will affect every aspect of our economy. Hard working Oregonians deserve better than this! We cannot afford more increases.

Our Phoenix Sewer fees increased \$4/month in July; this may not seem like much but add up all the increases and it becomes a behemoth. These increases not only make it difficult for hard working Oregonians, but who wants to move here or keep their business here? Oregon has lost several great businesses in the last few years and that means jobs lost , but if politicians keep doing the same things they have done for the last 20 years we will continue to suffer.

Please VOTE NO on this transportation package being presented in the Special Session. No on higher taxes and fees!

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Dickson

Phoenix OR

No to more fees and taxes to fund ODOT. You don't have to watch one of their work projects very long to recognize they are extremely inefficient. And the new projects they elect to undertake need serious scrutiny.

Myrle Gorsline

Joseph, Or.

The new ODOT funding bill will **increase costs to the average Oregonian** by about \$500 per year.

Instead of taxing Oregonians more, why don't the governor and legislature look at **unnecessary spending in other areas** of the state budget and reallocate it to needful things for ODOT?

Can't the ODOT budget be purged of expenses that are not **necessary**?

Can we please have an **audit** of ODOT expenditures to make sure money is being accounted for correctly?

Please don't lay the burden of these new expenses on the backs of Oregonian taxpayers. You're **driving out businesses and Oregonians** who can't afford them.

Respectfully,

Scott Birk

Clackamas County, Oregon