

Submitter: Melissa Laird

On Behalf of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding

Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Dear Committee Members,

Stand with me and say NO to Governor Kotek's Massive Tax Hikes.

I am retired and carefully prioritize my spending decisions so as to live within my means. I cannot afford more gas taxes, higher title and registration fees, or politicians taking more of my money without a vote. A 15% increase to the gas tax would be the largest in Oregon's history.

ODOT needs to face reality, like I do every day. They need to focus their spending on their **#1 priority**, which is to keep our roads safe. Transportation is about the mundane and boring job of road maintenance and operations – not glitzy projects like the I-5 Rose Quarter. The Rose Quarter project with its \$1 billion dollar funding gap is no longer viable, not affordable and needs to be cut.

ODOT also needs to be held accountable for the fallout of their \$1B forecasting error. This mistake has overcommitted ODOT on construction projects that they say they will not cancel, making their list of projects untenable.

The \$354 million maintenance and operations deficit ODOT faces for this budget cycle can be covered by making it **the top priority of the department** (as it should be) and then making the hard cuts in those projects that have gotten out of hand or never should have been proposed. I know not all funds are fungible but I'm sure ODOT can find \$345M.

Hard-working Oregonians are struggling to make ends meet and are tightening their belts. So should ODOT. Make ODOT prioritize their budget to keep our roads safe and oppose any efforts to increase costs on working families.

Oregon is already the 4th least affordable state with the 6th highest transportation costs. Don't make it worse by passing Governor Kotek's massive tax bill.

Say NO to Governor Kotek's TAXES.

Thank you,

Melissa Laird
Beaverton