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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

My husband & I live in Bridge,Oregone. A small tight nit community where we know are neighbors. Quite a few of us are retired living out our best life far from the idiocracy that effects the bigger cities. Having to travel several times a month up to purchase groceries or Dr appointments. We have a beautiful place with the privacy of 16.5 acres. Making us capapble of raising chickens, pork & our own tasty beef. We've installed a solar system, we have gravity fed spring water & irrigation rights. Making iit possible to have a garden & fruit trees making us less dependant on the grocery store. unfortunately in the 8 years we have lived in this location. It has become increasingly expensive for us to live here. The combination of all the state taxes has definetly strained us financially at times. I probably travel 100 miles both ways around 4 times a month on average. With both of us are retired we have a fixed income to live on. 8 years ago our income was less but so were our expenses. Oregone is supposed to not have a sales tax but you sneaked in a transaction tax. My tags on my old Baga bug are due. I probably only drive it a couple of times a year but that is going to double. My husband is a retired navy veteran of 20 years service. Both of us were born in Oregon but lately even though we live in the perfect location, have considerred going somewhere less expensive. You could be receiving increased revenue from other sources like timber & jobs but its just easier to appease your base & just raise more taxes. Businesses are leaving & increasing taxes on transportation are just going to make that exodise happen with increaseing speed. You could easily reduce the management at ODOT & keep the workers that are needed. We don't really need vanity projects like the animal bridges, Using regular companies to do projects instead of requiring union workers would lower the project costs by 30%. Raising the fuel costs will raise the transportation of goods automatically. Farmers have a low thresh hold in budget margins. So my hay price. My grocery price Pretty much everything will increase across the board. Increase the tax & everything will become so unafforsable that no one will be able to live the best life in retirement or otherwise. I'm currently helping gather signitures for your recalll and I have had only a couple of people tell me no, But I have had people who say that they try not to get involved in politics, but for you they will make an exception. Oregone is what direction we're moving in. Finding alternatives to your already ridiculous taxes is pretty much the only common sense solution for Oregone!