

Submitter: Joseph Tjaarda

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

I write in opposition to the 2025-2026 interim legislation that would empower ODOT to have influence on our taxes. It has come to my attention that the existing gas tax raises 2 cents every couple of years and has exceeded inflationary pace. In addition, the increase was meant to be contingent on ODOT meeting or exceeding its goals; which it has not done. In fact it has become quite a scandal that ODOT not only cannot complete a task on time but had a one billion dollar accounting error. Everything I have heard indicates that the problem is not with revenue generation but with mismanagement of the people's money. Unfortunately it appears we do not have politicians in power with the political will to stop wasting the people's money and hold those who are failing our system to account. However, I will continue to side with the people against a bill enabling un-elected bureaucrats to set our gas tax rate and fee schedules will decimate the already flagging Oregon economy. Increasing our gas tax from 42 cents to 46 cents is ridiculous but to add insult to injury it increases registration fees and other raises other taxes right after we just had a regular session that had preposterous cash grabs such as requiring a permit to tie inner-tubes together. Everyday Oregonians who are generous and compassionate have given what they can give but are starting to ask what exactly are we getting for our money? Where is it going and why is it that even after giving so much; it's never enough? Oregon needs a massive change in direction and it is clear the current leadership only knows how to write words like "bold action" but doesn't actually know how to achieve goals without ripping it from the hands of those who can least afford it. This special session should not be used to figure out how to rip away what little dollars are in the pockets of Oregonians but to enable ODOT to focus on priority goals and stop hemorrhaging the people's money. We need change and we need fewer taxes