

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

Good afternoon,

I have been small business owner for the last 20 years. Although I only have four full-time employees I offer a fair wage and benefits. Over the years it has become increasingly difficult to do so. The biggest reason? In Oregon we pay some of the highest taxes in the country. Every tax increase makes it more difficult for small companies to pay a decent wage let alone offer benefits. An additional \$5.8 billion tax over the next 10 years will make it that much harder for small businesses to compete with their large competitors.

If you think small business owners are making a fortune, think again. For example I currently make less than \$80,000 per year and I work about 12 hours a day. That's less than \$25 an hour. The governors bill would take even more of my hard earned money.

Each tax increase gives less opportunity for growth and more opportunity for downsizing. That means less jobs not more. That means less overall revenue to the state not more.

And while increased taxes certainly harm small business, we are not the ones hurt most. It is the low income that this will devastate the most. Oregon has one of the highest gas taxes in the country already. Increasing the gas tax and doubling fees and payroll tax will be devastating to those who are barely making it.

I urge you, please vote no on this overly burdensome tax bill!

Thank you for your careful's consideration, Christopher Sutton