



August 25, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

The Charbonneau District of Wilsonville, the #1 voting precinct in Oregon, finding transportation solutions for the state to fund basics like maintenance, keeping up with inflation by approving cost of living adjustments (COLA) for existing taxes and fees, continue the revenue sharing formula with cities and counties, abandon any proposals for tolling on roads within the state, and reframing the conversation in not raising taxes, but renewing investments in our transportation infrastructure. We have previously submitted testimony to this committee aimed at sensible, sustainable transportation solutions for our state that stabilize funding while enhancing prosperity for citizens and businesses.

We believe a transportation package without COLA adjustments is missing the boat. Having revenue sources adjusted on the cost of living is a no-brainer. It prevents the state from falling behind and playing catchup as it does all too often. Forty-something states have paved the way on this common sense component of paying for their states' transportation.

Another part of the package that is of concern is the large initial increase in the fuel tax right out of the gate, instead of phasing it in over a reasonable period. A 25 - 30% increase will inevitably result in sticker shock for consumers, and put you, the legislators who enacted it, on the defensive. This seems unnecessary. We support incremental increases over longer time periods.

Stabilizing revenue is paving Oregon's path to sustained prosperity. Doing nothing doesn't create opportunity, but extinguishes it. It's about investing in Oregon's future. We believe that stating how 50% of state highway funds are returned to the communities from where they originated is a winning investment formula and story worth telling.

Lastly. More robust accountability in the form of performance measurement, audits, cost benefit and return on investment analysis, reporting to the public, and personnel assessments are vital for citizens of Oregon to regain trust in a department whose credibility is in the basement. We hope restructuring the department, and making executive changes are on the table in resetting ODOT to be more accountable, more transparent, and functioning at a higher level of performance for the dollars allocated to them.

In summary:

- yes to COLA - for stabilizing revenue;
- no 25-30% gas tax increase on day 1 - incremental increases over extended time;
- greater accountability and performance measurement, for better performance;
- restructure ODOT - restores trust;
- adjust registration fees for heavier vehicles - for them to pay their fair share;
- goals of stable sustainable, reliable revenue, and efficiently putting funds to work.

Thank you considering how a reliable transportation system is life-giving for Oregonians. And that our expectations for a transportation package that supports prosperous, quality lives, helped by strategic investments in our state's future.

Respectfully,

*David E. Mauk*

Charbonneau Country Club | Vice President of the Board

Chair, Civic Affairs Committee

Charbonneau District #1 Voting Precinct in Oregon

32000 SW Charbonneau Drive, Wilsonville, OR 97070

