Submitter: Valerie Blaha

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation

Funding

Measure, Appointment or

Topic:

LC 2

I want to encourage Oregon lawmakers to share my priorities:

- 1) Keep our existing roads safe, including during the winter months. This means maintaining funding for roadwork and maintenance (plowing, striping, etc.)
- 2) Stop undermining and demoralizing ODOT workers who have been thrown into chaos due to the legislature's inability to come up with a funding plan during the previous session. We have enough chaos being caused by the federal government; the Oregon government should not be adding to this.
- 3) Budget realistically for large projects (I5 bridge repair, etc), and look at alternatives that may be less expensive. Do not go ahead with large projects at the expense of road maintenance.
- 4) Keep any new taxes to an absolute minimum. People are struggling and are scared about finances. Between uncertainties about massive health insurance increases for 2026, the huge costs to individuals and businesses due to the Trump tariffs, and the inflation being caused by the federal regime's chaotic and incoherent actions, many people literally can't afford additional taxes.

Additionally, I'd like to suggest that rather than cutting workers who are actually out there doing the hard work of keeping us safe, please consider cutting administrators and other higher up staff in ODOT. If we are at the point where ODOT is "broke", those in charge should take responsibility for the failures that brought us to this point.