

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of: All Oregonians
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

We are watching how you vote this bill and WILL BE sending letters to the contributors of your campaigns. Did Republicans have a say in this 91 page debacle?

NO MORE NEW TAXES!! Oregon is taxing the citizens into financial oblivion. How about being fiscally responsible with the monies that are already there? Everything that has been done this legislative session is geared towards running good tax-paying small businesses and families right out of Oregon. Are we hated? My observation is that MOST legislators just do what they want according to their personal beliefs and ideologies and NOT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

This is shameful. Oregon's government has become so WOKE and so against its citizens. We are keeping track of how each of you votes and we are spreading it all over social media for ALL TO KNOW. AND WE WILL SEND YOUR VOTING RECORD TO ALL OF YOUR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS.

I am a retiree and I CAN NOT afford these taxes. My COLA raises are a mere pittance to what these tax increases entail. EVERYTHING is going up in this state and I cannot keep up with it. Neither will average families be able to afford this. How about fiscal responsibility??

This week is crucial for all Oregonians. The proposed fix to ODOT's mismanagement will raise the cost of living for every Oregonians. The Governor, a puppet of unions, is claiming it's needed to save jobs for 500+ ODOT employees, which has been proven not to be true. Besides available e-board funds, ODOT's records show an increase in income, so why are they seemingly broke? Shouldn't an audit be done before every Oregonians is asked to suffer, especially low-income families?

The special session is unnecessary, which means it doesn't meet the requirements of an emergency to hold a special session - MAKING IT ILLEGAL.

During the regular 2025 legislative session, Sen. Daniel Bonham and Rep. Christine Drazan brought forth HB 3982 which never made it out of committee. WHY???? This would've solved ODOT's problems without raising our taxes. Rep. Drazan was also working on LC 4934 which would've done the same. These bills were ignored. WHY????

The Oregonian Editorial Board slams Kotek's proposal deep flaws: "But the current

proposal will do little to increase accountability for the state's spending of transportation funds, despite supporters' claims...There's no talk about directing money from the proposed tax hikes to ODOT megaprojects, including the now \$815 million (formerly \$250 million) Abernethy Bridge along Interstate 205 or the \$2 billion (formerly \$450 million) Rose Quarter expansion along Interstate 5.... ODOT has a history of quietly moving funding around to prop up ever-escalating highway projects at the expense of other core responsibilities, such as preserving bridges. ODOT is also already using gas tax dollars to repay debt. Cortright questioned whether the state will carve off some of the new revenue as well to support additional bonds for projects...Accountability also means not building in problematic policies in the first place. Kotek should rescind her executive order insisting that contractors for major state projects negotiate benefits and other working conditions with labor unions for workers on the projects". The Editorial is very long and detailed and worth the full read here.

I strongly OPPOSE because:

- Kotek's gas tax/wage tax plan will cost many families of four around \$300 a year in higher car costs.
- That \$300 in higher costs is NOT going to new mega-projects/new bridges but to pay for exploding costs of ODOT.
- Governor Kotek plans to raise the gas tax 15%, after raising it 5% just last year.
- Oregon's gas tax is already among the nation top 10 highest! This new one will likely place us in the top #5.
- Governor Kotek plans to raise DMV fees when they were already raised in 2024.
- We have the nation's only wage tax to pay for transit — Kotek's plan doubles it.

HOW CAN THIS BE JUSTIFIED??