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

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Joint Interim Committee On TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FUNDING

The Honorable Senator Rob Wagner and Representative Julie Fahey, Co-chairs

Respectfully I would ask you to stop, and individually consider the entire proposed legislation presented here without political leaning. This legislation hurts EVERY Oregonian regardless of location. Holding 500 ODOT employees hostage and the people they serve is reprehensible. I beg you to do the right thing. Raising all of the proposed taxes, very likely, will be the straw that eliminates some businesses and some families choosing to call Oregon their home. Legislators have continued to squeeze the lifeblood out of our state while trying to blame everyone else but themselves. Please stop.

STOP RAISING TAXES

Why are rural businesses responsible for metro transit, when the potholes in our roads don't even get repaired? You will spend millions of dollars on redesigned curbing, then millions more replacing the already new redesigned curbing, but argue about potholes in our roads, or bridges that washed out during a flood, then rip out support personnel that helps us maintain safe and travelable roads. It seems coldhearted to approach those terminations with winter weather and roads on the way.

Changing diesel and trucking fees simply adds to the already absurd inflation (partially created, in tandem, by unchecked spending during the last federal administration). Those trucks and fuel supply our homes with food, fuel, supplies, and repairs.

Raising ... doubling, payroll taxes puts a burden on independent small business that is already at the breaking point. Is that your goal? To eliminate small business so that you can control the big businesses that are left. Again, another socialist tactic that should be thrown out the door. You will not have construction crews, plumbers, electricians, mom and pop businesses, restaurants, pharmacies, groceries, nurseries, child care ... the list is endless. Squeezing Oregonians for their last red cent is unconscionable. You talk about deep pockets being a bane of society, yet your actions say exactly the opposite. Rural Oregon is the opposite of deep pockets. We work hard, raise good families, trust each other, but often don't have deep pockets. Your taxing legislation burdens every last one of us.

Revisiting fuel taxes biennially should be put to the voters of Oregon or at the very least, the elected officials. This is a dangerous precedent. Oregon's Constitution requires a 3/5ths vote to raise taxes. But this scheme sidesteps that protection by letting bureaucrats do the dirty work for politicians who don't want to take a tough

vote. Bottom line: our taxes will go up without a single elected official ever casting a vote. Is this unconstitutional?

Every Oregonian, young or old, of working age is struggling to keep afloat. This is NOT to be blamed on the current federal administration. It is continued tax and spend legislation. Many of our young adults can't even afford to acquire the basics. Every liberal concept you have implemented has stamped down the people in every community. Taking away from your rural neighbors to support your agenda is unconscionable. One political faction should not be allowed to subvert affordability to a favored location at the expense of losing communities, businesses, and citizens in the rest of the state. Power wielding politics is treasonous at best, because that is NOT what our constitution EVER stood for. There is plenty of funding to do necessary functions in government. It should not be a wish list and choke out. Our state government should be required to aggressively manage and scrutinize the budgets already in existence without perpetually asking for more like a greedy kid