

Submitter: Grant Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

After having listened to many giving their in person testimony, both for and against, I will not repeat what has been already stated. I am incredibly concerned about the transportation tax bill. After 44 years of serving the country as active duty Air Force, and civil service...I was looking forward to returning here to my home state to enjoy retirement. In recent years prior to returning, I've been watching the state of the state, and without reservation I will testify that this is not the state that I left.

My retirement years were not supposed to look like this. My cost of living in retirement simply can not absorb this financial punishment that I did not create. I pay very close attention to our legislature and I am challenged to see the financial decisions to date are hard to comprehend...especially when the results have been major businesses and families leaving the state as a result of these decisions. I've searched, and can't find one bit of rationale why that we continue to receive added and higher tax rates. When associated transportation taxes rise, there is a direct increase in costs of everything.

The most common statement I heard among those who oppose this tax increase, is that the insight in to all the micro details of where the tax dollars went. The statistics I heard sounded relevant, but its easy to present all that, yet not reveal where exactly the money went. How much money went to social programs such as DEI?

My suggestion is that in order to save our beautiful state, that the legislature answer this governor (and I hope she is listening) with a resounding no to this tax hike. What tax payers clearly understand is the need to save jobs, but the whole group of those who talk about saving ODOT jobs, fail to realize there are other people in Oregon who don't work for ODOT.

What Oregonians deserve, is to see clear proof of how the money is spent, and that our government is getting the financial house in order, with responsible budget management.

If this tax increase goes through, this legislature will see the decline of ability for people to survive here. Businesses will fail, homelessness will rise, and lawlessness will increase to levels we don't need to experience.

Legislature, please prove to us you can make good corporate decisions for the good of the people that you claim to represent.