

Submitter: K W

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Kotek's proposed transportation bill, particularly in its current form presented to the special session. This bill is not the solution Oregon needs; it is a step in the wrong direction that will disproportionately harm working families and residents.

As a long-time resident of Tigard and Oregon, I am deeply troubled by this proposal. It appears to be yet another attempt to extract more revenue from Oregonians who are already struggling under the record-high cost of living in this state, particularly in the Portland metro area. The torrent of proposals of new taxes and fees — including increases to property tax, the tire tax, (the already implemented) downtown Portland parking fees, and now a sweeping package of increases to the gas tax, vehicle title and registration fees, and payroll tax — is simply unsustainable.

These measures, framed as a way to fund transportation, ignore the fundamental issue: a lack of accountability and sound financial management. In any other profession or business, a persistent shortfall would lead to a reevaluation of spending and a focus on efficiency, not a continuous demand for more money from the public. Oregon's residents are being asked to pay for financial mismanagement that was not our fault.

My proposal is straightforward and hinges on fiscal responsibility:

- ** No new taxes or fee hikes. The burden on Oregonians is already too great.
- ** Mandate an independent, forensic audit to fully examine the use of existing transportation funds and identify where money has been misspent or wasted.
- ** Reduce administrative bloat and bureaucracy. Prioritize funding for essential personnel and services, such as road workers, over excessive overhead.

Until there is full accountability and transparency regarding where our money has gone, asking Oregonians to sacrifice more is unacceptable. Oregon already has one of the highest state income taxes in the nation, yet we are constantly told there are shortfalls in almost every sector. This bill does not address the core problem; it merely asks us to accept the consequences of a broken system.

If this bill passes, you can be certain that many Oregonians, including myself, will remember at the ballot box. I will support any candidate who stands against these unjustified tax and fee increases. Furthermore, many residents may choose to leave

Oregon permanently, leading to a permanent reduction in the state's tax base. We are at a critical juncture, and passing this bill sends a clear message that this state does not prioritize the financial well-being of its residents.

I urge you NOT to pass this bill and instead focus on a path of fiscal responsibility and accountability.