

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

Joint Interim Committee On Transportation Funding Co-Chairs Wagner & Fahey, Co-Vice Chairs Bonham & Drazan, & Members

Subject: Kill 2025 Special Session Legislative Concept (LC) 2, DRAFT Relating to transportation; creating new provisions; amending ORS 171.861 (and many more).

I am an Oregon-born U.S. citizen currently residing in Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony.

Rather than milking/bilking our residents by imposing a litany of new and ever-increasing array of taxes, fees, proposed tolls, etc., we in the state of Oregon should learn to live within our means... NOT just keep clamoring for mo' money.

Using funds available from *existing* revenue sources, the important/essential core functions of Oregon Dept of Transportation (ODOT) should be supported. However, it may be necessary to axe unnecessary "feel-good" money-wasters. For instance,

- bloated over-the-top DEI bureaucracy,
- project creep paying homage to the idealism with "unconstrained vision", e.g. improvements for the Rose Quarter being expanded to include a cap over the highway and community redevelopment.

Not that these things are bad, but again- we must live within our means. Eat "the elephant" one bite at a time.

I do not intend to disparage in any way the heart and backbone of ODOT (that being the folks who do the important and oftentimes difficult work of maintenance, responding to incidents, the design and construction of new and improved roads). But, I think that ODOT's management and overseers (if any), have some explaining to do... and some responsibility to bear.

Please get it together. I encourage you to kill this LC.

Thank you for your time, and for serving in our Legislature.

Michael S (Mike) Berry

Oregon Resident of Senate District 1 and House District 2
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