Submitter: Regan Dugger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation

Funding

Measure, Appointment or

Topic:

LC 2

A majority party should never force tax increases upon the people you were elected to represent. You see, there are constituents who are Democrats, just like the majority in both chambers. It seems, however, that you fail to support constituents who are Independents and Republicans fairly. It is always a Democratic majority or vote along party lines to get everything your fellow Democrat legislators want. At the cost of the people who are having their standard of living eroded, each and every session. I BEG you to work with your representatives from the other parties, too.

Stop forcing new taxes and fees on the people of Oregon. We already face taxes that rank among the highest in the entire U.S.A., and our elected officials just keep adding more. Consider all viewpoints and start working on legislation that ALL parties can agree with. Yes, that means you have to compromise. Yes, you won't get everything you want but neither will they. Any tax increases, no matter how much lipstick you put in that pig to disguise it, must not be on party-line vote. If the tables were turned, with Republican supermajority, would you want to be treated the same way?

Please DO NOT approve or continue to consider LC 2. Please DO NOT consider (again, again, and again) raising taxes and fees that only punish the hard-working citizens of our beautiful state, those who choose to make Oregon their home. You are literally choking the life out of your constituents who struggled through years of high inflation only to be faced with representatives looking to increase or add new taxes. Now, looking to retirement, my wife and I fear we won't be able to stay where our home, family, and grandchildren are located. Each penny you pluck from the pockets of retired Oregonians cannot be replaced. The fact is that ODOT can be reorganized so that all priority projects are completed, staffing maintained, and fees and taxes are not heaped upon the backs and shoulders of the people who can least afford to give up more money. Work together, liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans who come together and solve financial problems without more taxes, fees, and costs collected. Show the world what it was like back in the 70s, 80s, and early 90s when cooperation mattered and real progress was made. No more! Whatever you do, do not make another increase in taxes and fees the only answer.

I implore you, our elected officials, to be an example to the entire United States of America. Work together. Solve problems without more taxes. No more excuses or stories to justify additional spending by the State of Oregon. When someone is in debt, spending habits must be changed. Spending more money without paying off

major debt, such as the unfunded liabilities of the state's retirement plan, only leads to more and more problems. At some point, the spending must be STOPPED! There have been creative solutions proposed by the minority party, only to be dismissed in favor of hurting your constituents. Stop the games, work together, cut spending, and fix the problems perpetuated year after year by the legislature, both present and past.

Respectfully, Regan Dugger