

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

I am OPPOSED to the entire slate of road taxes up for a vote on Friday. Increasing the gasoline tax, increasing DMV registration fees, increasing the payroll tax, and instituting a new pay-by-mile tax all in one day, as part of a panicked redo for a failed bill is not the way to govern. I am in no way convinced that the situation is as simple as "the gasoline tax is insufficient for roadways because people are driving more fuel-efficient cars." And when Governor Kotek was not at Monday's hearing to answer questions or defend this bill, I only became more suspicious. The Cascade Policy Institute says that that 2024 revenues broke records, and that indeed, ODOT revenues across 2018--2024 rose by 30%. The state has money for ODOT, but it is not the state's prerogative to reach into my bank account to cover mismanaged bureaucracy. I see no 'mea culpa' from the state on how things supposedly got this bad, and the promise of an audit inspires little confidence. The fact remains that the 2017 promises from another ODOT moneygrab did not materialize, but instead went to studies and new hires. Families make concessions when money is tight. ODOT firing the little guy to inflict pain is immature. This happened under sequestration when the open-air Lincoln Memorial was closed, just to make a point. Do better. You have the money. You do not need more. You must do better with what you have, and prioritize all constituents over buddies with contracts.