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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

I am very much opposed to the proposal of raising Oregon's gas tax and payroll tax. While I fully support maintaining and improving Oregon roads, I am a firm believer that the state needs to do a better job of utilizing existing funds to do so, along with better prioritizing which roads and driving infrastructure projects that actually need repairs. Oregon is already one of the most expensive places in the country for drivers. MoneyGeek rated Oregon as the 2nd most expensive state in the USA in a recent article. Other sources show Oregon in their top-10 lists for most expensive states for drivers. For example, in the Tax Foundation ratings for 2024, Oregon was listed as #10 for the highest gas taxes in the country. In addition, a 2023 Yahoo Finance article, Oregon is listed as #3 for the highest vehicle automobile registration fees. This proves Oregonians are already taking a financial hit from taxes and other driving costs. If Oregon has a backlog of needed road repairs, it certainly shouldn't be because of a lack of taxes/funds. Additional taxes are bad for working class Oregonians, particularly those in rural communities, many of whom are low income and/or minorities, who often drive significantly more miles than the average driver. In addition, in remote communities, driving personal vehicles is a critical way of life for people's livelihoods, as minimal public transportation options exist. With inflation still affecting everyday costs like food, utilities, household goods, etc., many Oregonians can't afford additional taxes at the gas pump. Again, Oregon is already on numerous top #10 lists for driving in the USA...for all the wrong reasons. Let's make Oregon a top-10 destination for drivers...for the RIGHT reasons, which is certainly NOT taxes and fees!