

Submitter: Cheryl D Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Thank you in advance for reading my comments and all of the other written testimonies and all of the oral testimonies from yesterday's hearing. I certainly hope that you are able to listen to all of the people that have and are responding to LC 2. It has become apparent to me after hours of reading and listening that we Oregonians cannot afford more taxes! There has to be a better solution. I have spent this spring and summer watching ODOT work on Hwy 20/395 with the sidewalk ADA project. I do not understand why it takes 3 to 6 persons to watch the concrete harden? I don't understand why there are now crossing access in the middle of the block on a 4 lane HWY, is this to prove how dangerous these four lanes are since we did not approve doing away with the 4 lanes and going to 2 lanes with a center turn lane? You have to wonder what the purpose is for wheelchairs crossing the highway in the middle of a block. I am sure a million dollars or more was spent to justify this.

NOW on to the Transportation Funding Draft Bill:

Section 2 ORS 184.620 doesn't need amending and I really don't see a financial benefit for the governor to appoint the Director of Transportation, especially when the governor weighs in on this anyway and the appointment has to be approved in the Senate.

Sections 16, 17 and 18 Don't need changing. The only change needed here is managing the monies and following a budget. Maybe the employees will need to work instead of going on retreats, etc. We don't require shiny and brighter just roads that can be used without damage to vehicles and people.

Section 19 I think the fee jump from \$77.00 to \$216.00 is excessive.

Section 24 Just NO< NO< NO

Section 46 (c) again a jump from \$35.00 to \$65.00 is excessive.

Section 80 I find to be quite confusing. Only 3 fuel trip permits per year and each permit is only good for 3 days? How does that help anything?

Please, please, please do not pass this as a solution, find a way to use what taxes we already have and are paying to do the jobs. If budget shortfalls require layoffs, then so be it. We the people are tired of the waste of our hard earned tax dollars on frivolous things such as DEI. I am also worried about the statement in the draft that says beginning in 2030, if the Legislature fails to act would allow the Dept of Admin Svcs (DAS) to raise fuel taxes and weight-mile rates administratively! This is a sneaky and probably overlooked part of this bill.

Again I am hoping that this Committee and all the Legislators will take a close look into the 91 page draft and recognize that Oregonians cannot afford more taxes, especially in the county where I live and have a small business. There has to be a way that ODOT can live within its means.

Thanks again for listening.