

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

I write today to express our households objection to the proposed transportation funding bill. This effort to draw more resources from taxpayers, is yet another example of the tone deaf approach to governing that we have experienced. To throw more tax revenue to an agency that can not manage existing funding, seems idiotic. If our household over spends, we live with the consequences, cutting expenses and living within our means. Perhaps, you as our legislature should consider that idea.

As a Senior on SSI, projections for the annual adjustment is 2.7%. The gas tax increase is 15% and the registration increase is 97%. The transit payroll tax increase is 100%. Seems a bit excessive.

I believe there have been some alternatives suggested that should be pursued.

1. Move existing funds within ODOT to lessen the increase.
2. Eliminate the Governor's executive order 24-31 on PLA's that reportedly would increase project costs by 20%.
3. If one of the reasons for reduced gas tax revenue is due to EV's, why delay the mileage tax for two to three years?
4. Have you actually polled the citizens of Oregon to determine if there exists an appetite for a \$5.8 billion dollar tax increase?
5. I did listen to yesterday's hearing. It seemed there were a number of employees with testimonials. While the prospect of job losses is unfortunate, we have seen many private sector lay offs this year. Sometimes when revenue does not cover costs tough choices must be made. Surely. Of those targeted lay offs can be made.
- 6.. A simple Google search reports that just 20% of Oregon households use public transit. Why put a 100% tax increase on all Oregonians when so few use mass transit. Have you looked at a Tri Met bus running after 7 pm on Sunnyside Street? Another Google Search indicates then cost for Tri Met is \$9 plus per rider. Why throw more money at a service few use?

I have expressed my views to my representatives. Not surprisingly, there has been no response.

Regardless what I think, I am hopeful that with the overwhelming opposition from citizens, you will listen and come up with some alternatives.

Thank you.