

Submitter: Cindy Harden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

In passionate opposition to any increased taxes on Oregonians for ANY REASON. Do you realize that single tax paying Oregonians already pay approximately 25% of their income on taxes on EACH PAYCHECK! \$25 for every \$100 is gifted to the government to squander away.

There are many many solutions that can be used to balance the transportation budget and fund operations. Such as: contracting out to private firms for engineering and surveying. Early retirement packages. Combining part time positions into single full time. Bring back timber sales! Which for decades brought abundant revenue to the state. It made Oregon wealthy and didn't come from taxpayer wallets. And yes. The large popular argument of downsizing or eliminating the DEI division. All of these solutions are preferable to reducing ROAD MAINTENANCE. Road maintenance is a vital division that simply cannot afford to be reduced in services. The fact that you, the Governor, even proposed such an idea was incompetent to say the very least. That move was a childish temper tantrum. Self centered and self serving and in no way put Oregonians as a priority. I honestly cannot comprehend how you believed threatening citizens with no snowplowing, was a good idea. Did you think we would be scared enough to no longer talk back to you?

Oregonians pay millions to our government and continue to receive less and less services. While administrative positions continue to be added within ODOT which typically do not directly serve citizens.

In addition to this Oregonians continue to see a decline in value to our public service while you hold out your hand for more money. We cannot understand this.

How was this budgeted so poorly that we've now landed in such a deficit? Are there not budgets specialists and analysts that should have been prepared for this? When negotiating wages and funding for projects, did we even have the money then to approve spending? Or were you anticipating that Oregonians would open their wallets and shell out more taxes?

I cannot and will not in any way get behind any more taxes when we continue to see less and less services across all state departments. Figure out how to work with the millions you already receive.

We're tired. And broke.