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

Oregonians are struggling to keep up with all the demands on their finances. Between essential living expenses of rent, utilities, food, gas, there are endless increases in taxes, fees, permits for more and more things. It must stop! Absolutely no more increases. Oregonians cannot afford all the ODOT programs that are desired by all the different groups. We have to prioritize and can only do what we have funds for.

In 2017, ODOT had a 10 year \$5.6 billion road tax package. Now ODOT is claiming they have had inadequate funding for decades. Let's have an accounting of where all the money went or is going?

How can ODOT be underfunded when:

1. Oregon has the #10 highest state gas tax in the nation.
2. The Oregon Gas tax was raised +5% just last year (2024).
3. Oregon has the nation's only state wage (transit) tax. The transit tax alone is very harmful to businesses and will cause more to close and flee the state.
4. Oregon has the nation's only state bike tax.
5. Oregon Legislature approved I-5 bridge toll this year.

I heard about the plan that got no consideration in June which would have not had any increase and would have returned ODOT to its core function. That's what must be done. ODOT needs to be audited and held accountable. They need to focus on their core mission to build and maintain roads.

When you convene on August 29th, please do not pass an increase in the gas tax or any fees. I truly hope that you consider what is happening to our state and the economic impact these policies are having on businesses and quality of life for all of us citizens. We simply cannot afford this.

Thank you for reading my comments.