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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

Before any more money is allocated to ODOT, we as OVERTAXED taxpayers need to see an audit of ODOT. They have mismanaged funds, are not good stewards of the billions that have already been given to them. This is pure evil that they now hold us hostage by saying our roads will not be safe if we don't pay up. That smells of extortion. How about looking to see where funds have already been spent and who got raises. I bet the top tier of the administrators are overpaid. Fire from the top, not the workers. Stop the extortion. You already get money from our payroll Transit tax, which I deeply resent. I do not take public transport and will not take public transport. The buses are few and far between. The stops are few and far between. The clientele. does not know how to behave on public transport. There is no way that I could hold 4 part time jobs by taking public transport. Public transport is unreliable if you have appointments, errands and multiple jobs.

Raising gas taxes is a huge hit on my bottom line. I have several part time jobs (no, I am not an Uber or Lyft driver). You are punishing those of us who use our car for work, going to appointments, running errands. Raising taxes is easy. Going to the public trough instead of fixing the underlying problems is easy. Find a solution WITHOUT raising taxes. Do your jobs as politicians to listen to the public and to protect your constituents from further taxes when that is not needed. This increased gas tax is not needed. Clean up the mess at ODOT first. Stop raising taxes -- that shows you are not doing your job as a politician. You thinks the public has deep pockets. We don't. When we live on a budget because the city of Portland has raised "water rates" by a huge amount (it really is not a water bill, it is a storm-runoff bill). PGE is constantly raising their rates, NW Natural has raised their rate, the garbage companies have raised their rates, insurance has gone through the roof, and every time I go to a grocery store cringe as prices are so high, that a dozen eggs, a pound of butter and a loaf of bread is now \$20 (and none of that is "organic" or grass fed). I no longer have change in my pocket. My pocket now contains lint.

Yet trust the politicians to figure out how to squeeze more money out of our very tight budgets. If you raise gas taxes, then ELIMINATE that Horrible PAYROL TRANSIT TAX. I do not support public transport --- it is unsafe, filthy, and our neighborhoods are not safe. No way would I ever take Max or buses in the evening and walk 20 blocks to my home from the nearest stop in a neighborhood that has seen an uptick in crime because criminals rule the streets. Neighbors don't even call the police anymore because we know we will not get help. So how does that affect your crime stats. You can boast crime is down if people don't report it.

Remove that transit tax -- I begrudge every dollar that goes to that payroll tax. DO NOT RAISE the gas tax. You are punishing the workers. As politicians the stereotype is so true,. When you need money, instead of tightening your belt, you just TAX us to death. Too bad we can't tax the politicians when WE need money.

If you raise our taxes, we will remember at the polls. Quit the extortion tactics. IF anyone need to lose their jobs, fire the people at the top who go to expensive conferences, not the workers who are doing the actual work on dangerous streets. If you vote for this, then You the politicians need to fire yourselves for not doing your job in finding solutions that do not require the raising of taxes. Perhaps you need to have a salary reduction. You are overpaid if you raise taxes on the rest of us.

DO NOT raise car registration fees. They are already too high. DO NOT raise title fees. DO NOT raise that stupid overpriced Payroll Transit Tax. Shame on you for thinking this is a good solution. I am so disappointed in our politicians thinking this is a good idea.

NO more tax hikes!!!!!!!!!!