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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to you today as a deeply concerned and overtaxed citizen regarding the proposed tax increases to fund the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Before any more money is allocated to ODOT, we, the taxpayers, demand a full and transparent audit of the department's finances.

For too long, ODOT has proven to be an irresponsible steward of the billions of dollars already entrusted to it. The current proposal to raise gas taxes and other fees feels less like a solution and more like a punishment for working Oregonians. This request for more money while holding the safety of our roads hostage feels like extortion, and it's unacceptable.

Before asking for more, ODOT needs to be held accountable for its spending. Where has the money already gone? Who has received raises? I suspect that administrators at the top are overpaid, while those doing the actual work on our dangerous roads are not. It's time to cut from the top, not put the burden on everyday citizens.

I also want to address the issue of the payroll transit tax. I deeply resent this tax, which forces me to fund a public transportation system that is not only unreliable but also unsafe. I cannot rely on a system with infrequent routes and stops to get to my four part-time jobs, and the rising crime rates make using public transit at night a serious safety concern. I believe this tax should be eliminated, not compounded with new fees.

The rising costs of living—from increased utility and grocery bills to skyrocketing insurance rates—are already squeezing our budgets dry. We are living on the lint in our pockets, yet you, our elected officials, seem to think we have endless funds to spare.

Raising gas taxes and other fees is not a solution; it's a symptom of a much larger problem—a failure to manage funds and find innovative solutions. I implore you to do your job and find solutions that do not involve further taxing your constituents.

If you vote for these tax hikes, you are not only punishing workers but also demonstrating a failure of leadership. We will remember this at the polls. It's time to stop the extortion, clean up the mess at ODOT, and find a better way forward without

raising taxes. Do not raise gas taxes, do not raise car registration or title fees, and eliminate the payroll transit tax.

I STRONGLY urge you to consider the DIRE financial situation of your constituents and reject these tax increases. Eliminate taxes not impose additional ones.