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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

To the politicians of Oregon:

We, the overtaxed citizens of this state, are not your piggy bank. The proposition to raise gas taxes and other fees to fund the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is a blatant display of fiscal irresponsibility and a slap in the face to every hardworking Oregonian. We will not be held hostage by your threats of unsafe roads. This is not a request; it is a call to action.

ODOT has a track record of gross financial mismanagement. We demand a full, transparent, and independent audit of every single dollar that has been allocated to them. Before we hand over another cent, we need to know where the billions already given have been spent. We need to see who is getting raises and who is benefiting from expensive conferences while our roads fall into disrepair. The solution is not to tax us more—it is to fire from the top, clean house, and hold those in power accountable for their failures.

Your proposed gas tax increase is a direct assault on the working class. We rely on our vehicles for our jobs, our errands, and our lives. You punish those of us who cannot afford to live within walking distance of our workplaces. This tax is a regressive burden on the very people who keep this state running.

And let's not forget the deeply resented payroll transit tax. You force us to fund a public transportation system that is unreliable, unsafe, and does not serve the needs of working people. Buses are infrequent, stops are few and far between, and the risk of crime is a constant threat. Your claims of public transport being a viable option for all are a fantasy. We pay for a system we cannot and will not use. It is an insult.

We are already being taxed to death. Our budgets are squeezed to the breaking point by skyrocketing costs for water, power, garbage, insurance, and groceries. Our pockets are empty, and you are still trying to squeeze more out of us. Your "solution" is the easy way out. Real leadership requires finding a solution without raising taxes.

We will not be extorted. We will not be lied to. If you vote to raise our taxes, you will be voting against the interests of your constituents, and we will remember it at the polls. That is a promise. Find a better way to do your jobs. Cut salaries at the top. Eliminate wasteful spending. Stop trying to solve your problems by punishing the people you were elected to serve.

****NO MORE TAX HIKES.**** This is a non-negotiable directive.