

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

I am writing in favor of LC2. I am an Oregon resident and a ODOT employee. I am the only wetland scientist employed in region 1 and without a funding package I will be laid off on September 15th. Without a wetland scientist in the region there will be significant increased costs for projects because all permitting will have to be contracted out to consultants. This is just one example of the many staffing issues facing the department if the funding package does not pass. ODOT has been cutting their budget and only hiring when absolutely necessary for a while, so we are already operating with a very reduced workforce. These layoffs will cause immediate challenges and decrease public safety. The region's only HazMat Geologist is being laid off as well, so the on-call hazardous materials spill response that the Portland area has had will no longer be possible. The services that the State fund pays for go towards keeping Oregon roads and its citizens safe. Please, please pass this funding package so that we can keep doing that.