

Submitter: Ralph Wiser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation  
Funding

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: LC 2

I am a lifelong Oregonian, who is seriously considering leaving the state because of Oregon's governance. I am opposed to the road tax. I.e., no new road or vehicle tax. Oregon currently squanders tax money in a variety of ways. First it duplicates services unnecessarily. For example the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission has an able and robust investigation staff which is fully capable of and has for decades upon decades investigated alleged teacher misconduct. The state now in addition to paying for the TSPC investigators pays for another layer of investigation by DHS. Waste, nonsense. Second, the state funds K-12 schools who consistently reliably and predictably fail to teach students to read and do basic math in elementary school-to the extent it has recently not published test scores. Third, the state seems to believe, especially in the case of this proposed legislation, that it is an employment agency when, in fact, it should govern competently and efficiently at the least cost to taxpayers. Oregon is declining in large part because of its tax burden. The notion that greater taxation is fair, or that greater taxation leads to better results for Oregonians, or that it keeps Oregon competitive with other states, is contradicted plainly by those who actually understand and pay attention to the tax structure and burdens of other states-and understand basic economics. And Oregon is failing because of poor policy decisions it continually and predictably makes. Oregon will not begin to get its house in order until it makes responsible but difficult decisions about funding. If legislators do so with respect to this bill, i.e., defeat it, then perhaps Oregon will begin to make more realistic decisions about how to spend hard earned tax dollars.