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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Oregon's state highway trust fund faces a shortfall due to increasing vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing costs to maintain and operate the existing transportation system and funding sources like the gas tax that cannot keep pace. This problem has been discussed for many years now and is not unique to Oregon. LC2 provides a temporary reprieve from the cuts in transportation services that we as a state and local communities face if this shortfall is not dealt with in terms of structural financial reform. LC2 buys the legislature more time to chart our collective path forward while avoiding dangerous cuts to maintenance, operations, safety, and transit services and staff. The transportation professionals poised to lose their jobs and livelihoods are dedicated to keeping our state and regional economy moving, improving the safety of the traveling public and preserving transportation options and access, in particular for vulnerable and historically marginalized people. For any legislators who are unclear of the consequences of failing to address the present and future funding shortfall as it pertains to maintaining and operating our current transportation system, just think about your constituents who depend on winter road crews so they can get to work or for critical supplies to be delivered. Think about preventable crashes caused by poor road conditions that could have been addressed with properly funded services. Think about the cost to families in your district who will have to move due to transit service cuts. Think about the businesses in your district who have to close because their employees can't get to work as reliably as in the past. Not to mention the hundreds of individuals and families directly impacted by the impending layoffs caused by legislative failure. None of this sounds like a winning political strategy and certainly won't improve the lives of Oregonians. I urge all of Oregon's legislators to work together to either support the passage of LC2 or come up with an even better longer term plan to fund the maintenance and operations, and improvement, of our transportation system.