

August 26, 2025

Why are you holding a special session to find more ways to tax Oregonians for ODOT? Why is there such a great concern over possible layoffs? They can simply cut programs or learn to live within their means and not lay anyone off. You're just trying to scare us. Stop building trains. I also am hearing that only front-line workers are affected, and \$100K to \$250K remote workers are safe. Let them go instead. They don't fix the roads.

I never heard such alarm when Intel is laying off 2000 or more at a time, or when Nike went through restructuring last year and went through rounds of layoffs. Those are your taxpayers. They don't have jobs. Those are the citizens you should be worried about. How are you going to tax them?

Is the legislature spending any time trying to attract new businesses to Oregon? The unemployment rate is ticking up every month now and is much higher than the national average. That should be a reason for a special session.

The US is finally attracting business and manufacturing back to the US, announcing foreign investment for chips and AI investments in other states. Is the legislature doing anything to attract any of that? None of the new chip plants being announced is coming to Oregon. I can't think of any announcement in the last 10 years about a new business or headquarters moving here. It's always another state.

When I moved here in 1999, Intel was a powerhouse and the Silicon Forest was thriving. Intel isn't a leader anymore. Now their failing and in decline. While we still have tech workers in Oregon, they need new businesses to come to Hillsboro, or it will decline. I don't work there, but you should be concerned. Nike is also struggling. A few hundred government workers who vote democrat are probably nice, but the taxes those workers pay still come from the private sector.

Other states run ads on TV trying to attract businesses to the state and grow their tax base. Does Oregon do that? A WNBA team or a MLB baseball team seem nice, but they only employ a few hundred people for concessions and you tax us for stadiums. Those aren't the jobs Oregonians need.

Traffic in Portland is bad and ODOT hasn't really done good job with the money they have. We fought off tolls, but you were determined to get the money anyway.

You can't just keep raising taxes if people don't have jobs. With a rising unemployment rate and no strategy to attract new businesses to Oregon.

Thanks,

Mark Small