

Submitter: Stephen Moore  
On Behalf Of:  
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As a father of three, I can't help but worry about the impact these layoffs will have on families like mine who rely on safe roads every single day. ODOT is planning to lay off 483 employees and leave 449 positions unfilled. That means fewer people working to keep our highways safe and our transportation systems running.

These workers aren't just "road crews"—they're often the first ones out in dangerous conditions, making sure that snow, ice, and hazards don't put our loved ones at risk. When I think about my kids driving to school, my wife commuting to work, or even us taking a family trip across the state, I want to know that the systems in place to protect us are being maintained.

Melissa Unger, the executive director of SEIU Local 503, said it best: without enough ODOT staff, we could see slower responses to emergencies and hazardous winter conditions. And yet, the remaining workers may be unfairly blamed when the roads aren't safe—not because of their effort, but because there simply aren't enough of them left to do the job.