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

No new taxes! Do we need to have the highest fuel costs on the West coast due to taxes? The cost of living has increased faster than wages. Food prices have increased over 24% following COVID. Electricity prices have almost doubled in the past 5 years. Insurance prices have increased substantially. House costs have sky rocketed. Tariffs are driving up costs of goods, including food (coffee beans from Brazil now have a 50% tariff), clothing and transportation (cars and trucks). The basic necessities of life are becoming excessively expensive in Oregon. Oregonians no longer have the discretionary income to pay more in taxes. Why would new businesses want to come to Oregon. Minimum wage has jumped in the past 5 years, however, the wages for middle income has not. The working poor and middle income wage earners would be hit the hardest with the proposed increases. The working poor cannot afford newer cars with better fuel efficiency. The cost to own an automobile includes expenses such as fuel, tires, oil, maintenance, and insurance. Bus systems in rural communities is not cost effective. Bus services outside of major cities is not supported. Transportation outside of major Oregon cities is required to get to work to earn the money to pay for the transportation costs and taxes. Oregonian's, including myself, can't afford to pay more taxes. Trucker's, ambulance's, airlines, freight (think Amazon and postal service) and shipping organizations can't afford to pay more in taxes. When will Oregonians get a break. I plead with you to look for ways to fund the Transportation department without the necessity to increase taxes to economically struggling Oregonians. No new taxes! We all need to live within our budget.