

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

Good Evening. My name is Ava. I am twenty-two years old, I work two jobs and am a college student who is just trying to make it in this state. I am writing in opposition of LC 2.

LC 2 will continue to throw thousands of hard working Oregonians down the line of poverty. We can not afford another 6 cent gas tax increase when we are already struggling to pay at the pump. We can not afford to pay more payroll income tax. We can not afford another \$42 in a base registration fee, or another \$136 in titling fees, and so much more. I moved to Oregon in November of 2024. To retile and reregister my car in the State of Oregon was \$383. \$116 of that total charge was a Multnomah county fee. I hope you can understand but having barely any money to move, and then have to pay to just have my vehicle legal in this state severely hurt my bank account, as I already barely had any money. I am not alone. There are thousands of others feeling the same way as me. Did you know that Oregonians filing individually already pay 23% of their income on state taxes alone ([financebuzz.com](https://www.financebuzz.com))? That is 23% of my income of roughly less than \$30k/year in taxes that I could have spent on groceries, gas, or just being able to live. Luckily, I have help from family. There are many Oregonians who do not have the help that I have. We can not afford to suffer at the expense of Kotek's and ODOT's poor money handling. I recently sat down at the in-person testimony and heard that Kotek and her government have no plan to reallocate funds from other state funds. I find it disgusting and disrespectful to hard-working Oregonians to not try to find any other solution to their poor money management but instead to just take more out of our already dry pockets. It really shows where the current state government's priorities are. We already have a higher than national average gas tax. This is not only going to affect us who live in the urban communities, but also the others that live in the rural areas who have to travel 50+ miles just to seek medical care. Kotek needs to find other funds from other state funds, or discipline herself and her government and their money spending problem. Stop spending hard-working Oregonians tax dollars on illegal immigrants, environmental non-profits who protect wildlife that is not even native to Oregon, building new libraries in Portland that no one voted on, and so much more. Even with the money that ODOT has "spent" this year, our roads still look like garbage in Gresham. Its not only in Gresham, but in many areas. My partner who has lots of experience in road management, building roads, wildland firefighting even has stated, "I've seen better forest service roads than this." as we were driving through Happy Valley. I also want to address the unconstitutional appeal of Kotek being allowed to fire or hire a new ODOT directors without vote from the public and her proposition to allow ODOT to raise gas taxes without any votes from legislature or the Oregonian

people. Would that not be taxation without representation? The powerful rally cry that our founder fathers stated during the American Revolution? Again, this tax proposal really shows the states priorities and their care for us Oregonians. It is going to continue to send us middle-class, and young adults into the poverty spiral. We already have one of the highest state tax rates compared to the rest of the 48 states. This is not going to help the poor or underprivileged. It is only going to make our situation worse. Please vote NO on LC 2. Thank you.