

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

Dear Governor and Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed gas tax and payroll tax increase being considered during the upcoming special session.

This proposal unfairly burdens every Oregon driver and worker without addressing the core problem: our state's transportation agency continues to operate with misaligned priorities and inadequate accountability. Simply raising taxes will not solve the structural flaws that prevent existing road dollars from being directed toward their most essential purpose—maintaining highways, freight routes, and critical infrastructure that Oregonians depend on daily.

Even more concerning, this plan disproportionately impacts traditional drivers while exempting many electric vehicle owners from paying their fair share. Oregon's roads experience the same wear and tear regardless of what powers a vehicle. Asking gas-powered drivers to shoulder ever-higher taxes while EV owners contribute comparatively little is fundamentally unfair and creates a widening imbalance in how we fund infrastructure.

Oregonians are already struggling with high costs of living, and this plan would only make it harder for families to fill their gas tanks, commute to work, and keep small businesses afloat. Adding a payroll tax on top of this further punishes workers and employers alike, slowing economic growth at a time when Oregon should be focused on opportunity and recovery.

Most troubling is the process itself. Instead of working toward a bipartisan solution in the regular session, this rushed, "my way or the highway" approach undermines trust in state leadership. Oregon deserves better—transparent collaboration, fiscal responsibility, and a plan that ensures every dollar collected is used wisely.

Before asking Oregonians to pay more, we must first demand accountability:

Independent oversight of transportation spending

Clear guarantees that funds will go directly to road maintenance and freight mobility

Equity in funding between gas and electric vehicle owners

A commitment to collaborative policymaking that includes all voices, not just partisan leadership

I urge you to reject this harmful proposal and return to the table to develop a responsible, bipartisan solution that truly works for all Oregonians.