

Submitter: Leslie Rubinstein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Dear Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,

Thank you for spending the dog days of summer attempting to provide transportation funding for Oregonians. I am writing in support of such funding. Why? Is it because I want more taxes? No. But without transportation funding, the Oregon Legislature will be responsible for firing ODOT employees and increasing the unemployment rate in Oregon. The Legislature will also be sticking it to rural Oregonians who, in particular, will suffer from a reduction in myriad road maintenance issues, including an increase in the size and number of potholes. In my community, people complain loudly about the preponderance of potholes, but at the ballot box, they have been unwilling to fund pothole repair. I think the same may be true for all the tax-naysaying testimony-submitters this week. And if you do not pass transportation funding, you will be sounding the death knell for areas like southern Douglas County, where last week the Umpqua Public Transit District announced the likely termination of seven daily buses serving rural communities, some of which have no health care services at all. If you don't provide transportation funding, then you are gifting rural Oregonians with icier roads, increased wildfire-igniting roadside vegetation (check out August 21 brush fire at the I-5 milepost 177), fewer jobs and less access to health care. Without a transportation package and the taxes that will pay for it, there will be some very big potholes, literally and figuratively, in the lives of Oregonians, particularly rural Oregonians.