

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

To Whom it May Concern:

I am submitting my opposition to the upcoming Special Session on transportation funding, which would add additional taxes and fees to each and every Oregonian.

Oregon residents pay some of the highest taxes in the nation already. Oregon has consistently raised taxes for gas, vehicle registration and road usage since 2017. We pay a tax to drive, to purchase the fuel to drive, to ride a bike; we now even have a "privilege tax". We are taxed on income we make from working in order to PAY our bills. We pay a Tri-Met tax, regardless of whether we use the transit system. A transit system that by the way, never seems to be able to operate without more and more funding, and less and less benefit.

Our electricity bills have gone up, water bills have increased, trash collection has increased, food prices have gone up, but unfortunately, the citizens do not have the luxury of asking our employers for more money to get more funding when costs increase; we must adjust our budgets to accommodate the fluctuation in our disposable incomes. The Governor is my employee, although I admit I did not vote for them. The ones who were put in office to govern this state have done an exceedingly poor job of managing the budget for Oregon and would do well to adjust THEIR spending to accommodate the fluctuation in their budget numbers. The citizens are already maxed out on taxes.

It is funny to me, while the leadership in Oregon decries how the tariffs are hurting the economy, have absolutely no issue with asking the people of Oregon to come up with more to fill coffers that have come up empty due to our money being spent without regard for the people who foot the bills.

My advice to this Governor, is to make significant changes in your spending projections, spend our tax money as if it was your own and make better decisions when you decide to fund your personal pet programs.

Sincerely,
Amanda St.Thomas