

Submitter: Janet Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

Chair, members of the committee—

My name is Janet, and I'm a single mother to an adult son with autism. I'm here today not just as a taxpayer, but as someone who understands firsthand how fragile financial stability can be for families like mine. I strongly oppose Legislative Concept 2, the proposed transportation funding bill, because it would impose devastating costs on Oregonians who are already stretched to their limits.

This bill proposes over \$5.8 billion in new taxes and fees—including gas tax hikes, registration and title fee increases, and a doubling of the payroll tax. For families like mine, every dollar matters. I carefully budget for fuel, groceries, medical care, and the specialized support my son needs. These new costs would force impossible trade-offs.

We've been told these taxes are necessary to fund transportation projects. But we've heard that before. In 2017, Oregon passed a \$5.3 billion transportation package (HB 2017) with similar promises. That money was supposed to fund major projects like the Rose Quarter and the I-205 Abernethy Bridge. Instead, we've seen ballooning costs, missed deadlines, and broken promises. The Abernethy Bridge alone has tripled in cost—from \$248 million to over \$815 million.

Now, ODOT is asking for billions more, without delivering on the last package.

Families like mine are being asked to pay more while getting less.

LC2 would:

- Raise the gas tax by 6 cents per gallon
- Increase registration fees by \$42 and title fees by \$139
- Double the payroll tax that funds public transit
- Mandate a pay-per-mile program for electric vehicles

These are regressive taxes that disproportionately impact low- and middle-income Oregonians, seniors, caregivers, and people with disabilities. For single parents, for those living on fixed incomes, for those navigating complex care systems—this bill is not just a financial burden, it's a moral failure.

Before asking taxpayers for more, ODOT must deliver on past promises. We need transparency, fiscal responsibility, and measurable outcomes—not another blank check.

I urge you to vote NO on LC2. Oregon families deserve better.

Thank you.

Janet Brown

Tualatin, Oregon