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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

I am writing in on behalf of my family in opposition to the LC2 transportation bill. I do not think this bill is not well thought out and certainly not a long-term solution to the problems looming for ODOT. In 2017 Oregonians past massive bill for transportation that come to find out has had very little oversight. The simple fact that this new bill would call for more accountability for the 2017 bill monies and that governor Gotex said she will resume conversations about tolling after this bill goes through leaves me to believe that there's a deeper more systemic issue with ODOT. Working families cannot afford more taxes and small businesses should not have to bear this burden with payroll. I find this entire process to be rushed and secretive but mostly just disappointing. Oregon can't get out of its own way and the leadership is failing at the top with our representatives and governor. This bill is a Band-Aid at best and taxation without representation at its worst. every Oregonian knows how bad our roads are, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't have the right to vote on tax increases. I find this bill is lacking in creativity and accountability. I do not understand why representatives would not want ODOT to be audited and the major projects be individually audited from the 2017 bill to see if that money and those projects are going to be stalled and/or delayed and in debt. Why wouldn't state legislature take this moment to amend protocols that allow money from certain projects to be moved over within ODOT? And the fact that they want to start taxing EV's in 2030 instead of sooner is beyond me. They're using the roads for the next five years why not pay to help maintain them? Have some faith in this progressive state that people will still be buying hybrids/EVs for climate change and personal reasons and do not only tax people with gas cars. Increasing fees with the DMV is asinine in the sense that it won't help with wait times like promised and unless police are going to really start pulling over people with expired tags, only the responsible citizens will be paying these fees. As someone who lives in Portland but works in agriculture. I simply do not see how this would not negatively affect both urban and rural working families. I fear that this will only hurt middle to low income families. I had hoped to see Oregon's representatives be more creative, collaborative and empathetic to working families. Instead they are only increasing taxes to fund a failed department with little to no accountability before handing over billions. What's worse is that everyone agrees this bill the largest tax hike in state history BUT is just a Band-Aid to the problem. How disappointing.