

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

To the Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Funding,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding Legislative Concept 2. I am a resident in Salem, Oregon, and I am here to speak in strong opposition to this bill, based on the fundamental principles of fiscal responsibility and government accountability.

My professional and personal experience has shown me that Oregon's low-income residents and working families face a constant struggle for financial stability. It is often a challenge to move forward, as rising costs and financial pressures can erode the progress made. Therefore, every policy decision that imposes new financial burdens must be scrutinized carefully.

Every household in this state must operate within a budget. We are compelled to make tough decisions, prioritize our needs, and live within our means. If a family were to spend beyond their income and max out a credit card, the solution would not be to simply acquire another one and keep spending recklessly. The answer would be a serious reevaluation of their spending and a commitment to budgeting better. This is a principle of basic stewardship that all citizens are held to.

For some reason, this simple principle appears to be lost on public officials. The proposed solution in LC2 is to raise taxes and fees on hardworking Oregonians, essentially asking us to provide a "bailout" for a budget that has already failed. The government does not need more money; it needs to spend the money it has more wisely. The core issue is not a lack of funding but a perceived lack of accountability and judicious spending.

For all these reasons, I urge this committee to reject any new taxes or fees. A full and public audit of ODOT's current spending must be conducted. We, the taxpayers, deserve to know that every dollar collected is being used efficiently and effectively. It is a disservice to the public to demand more from them before demonstrating a commitment to responsible management of existing resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask that you hold our government to the same standard of accountability you expect from the citizens you serve.

Respectfully,

A Resident of Salem, Oregon