

Submitter: karen schmidlin
On Behalf Of: Oregon Citizens
Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding
Measure, Appointment or Topic: LC 2

Dear Committee Members,
Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the transportation package.

I oppose this bill.

NO NEW TAXES! How many ways can we say it. Are you listening to Oregonians? I heard a lot of testimony in support of this, on Monday, from people who will benefit financially from this package passing. These were mostly people on government payroll of some kind, or elected officials, whose districts will benefit, or union workers that will get the contracts. There were only a handful of folks who were able to speak in person to voice their opposition. These people represent the real majority of people in Oregon. Christine Drazen noted, at the end of the public oral testimony, that of the written testimony, those opposed were only about 3%. That should tell you something.

The Citizens of Oregon are all on some kind of budget, some of them on fixed income. We are already stretched thin. We cannot afford any more taxes. We all have no option but to live within our budgets. When we run short, we must reset our priorities. Eating at home vs dinner out. Shopping at re-sale instead of buying new. Less trips in the car. Many of us are running out of options. Average, hard working Oregonians have no room left in the budget to pay anything more.

My husband owns a log truck. So, while it is nice to hear that within this bill, there is a solution to help balance what truckers pay in gas taxes to be more fair. That would be great, but I'm afraid that it probably doesn't make up the difference in the extra that we are paying on our personal vehicles in fees and gas taxes. We do not agree with the trucking industry in supporting this. I am actually surprised that the truckers are turning their back on the rest of the Oregonians, just because they are getting something that is long overdue. I can only believe that they really don't have the whole story.

Nobody wants to see hard working folks that do work for ODOT to lose their jobs. The fact that this bill threatens that is insulting. The Republicans have a plan that would prioritize the work that needs to be done, but would cancel some of the things that we don't actually need. One of those, I would say, should be TriMet. The whole state is funding all this construction and upkeep of the Max lines etc, while the ridership is going down. Maybe we would feel better about spending money if the

system would get managed in a way that it would thrive, instead of being dirty and un-safe to the point that nobody wants to ride. We need to get some competent people in charge of these areas in order to work on priorities and stop wasting our money.

Oregonians are angry. It's your job to represent us. Please help clean up this mess and put priorities in the right places. Please do not threaten us with not getting essential work done to ensure safe roads and keep commerce moving.

Thank you for your time in office. I understand it's not an easy job. We just want you make good choices to support all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Karen Schmidlin
Banks, OR