

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

As a small business owner that runs trucks in the tri county area, I find that the increased costs from highway mileage taxes and increased fuel taxes prohibit me from expanding my business and hiring more employees. The increased taxation of businesses in Oregon needs to be halted before the big companies decide to move elsewhere. When they do that, the economy will suffer as the workforce will no longer be here to pay taxes. Subsequently, with a workforce moving out of state, the demand for a strong economy disappears and we will be faced with more strain on the system that is barely substantial as it is.

I do not oppose taxes that are fair and are paid by all. Electric vehicles are much more prevalent on the highways and there needs to be a fair tax system in place to make up for the lost revenue with fuel taxes. In my opinion, a mileage tax would be the most favorable as you pay for what you use. If you adopt a toll system, then reduce the fuel taxes to compensate for the owners of fossil fuel vehicles that also pay a fuel tax. A two-tiered system of tolling, one for electric vehicles and one for gas vehicles.

Additionally, I find it frustrating that highway taxes are used for other purposes that highway infrastructure costs. If I pay a mileage tax, i expect it to be used on my highway system. it is wrong to divert funds that are supposed to be used for 'patching potholes' go to a bike path or a pedestrian walkway, or something that isn't even related to the highway system.

In my business, I have to work within a budget. I don't get to just raise my prices to fill a void when I don't have enough to cover the costs, as that will put me out of business by losing customers. I try to support the economy by hiring employees, so if I shut my business down, then you have lost a revenue stream albeit a very small one.

I understand the costs of doing business and running a state are comparable in that equipment costs, labor costs and fuel costs are increasing. But please try to make the tax burden fair and equitable for all.

Thank you for reading my testimony.  
Signed,  
A Voting Tax Payer

Marvin Cruickshank