



# HARNEY COUNTY COURT

*Judge Bill Hart*

450 North Buena Vista #5, Burns, Oregon 97720

Phone: 541-573-6356 Fax: 541-573-8387

*Bill.hart@harneycountyor.gov*

Websites: *www.harneycountyor.gov*

---

August 27, 2025

## **Written Testimony before the Joint Committee On Transportation Funding**

Dear Chair,

I am writing in opposition to any increased fuel or vehicle taxes.

I strongly oppose the proposed increases in fuel and vehicle-related taxes. While I understand the need to fund infrastructure and environmental initiatives, continually raising these costs places an unfair burden on working families, small businesses, and commuters who have no practical alternatives to driving.

Fuel costs are already volatile and a major factor in the rising cost of living. Adding higher taxes will hit rural residents especially hard, since they often face long commutes and lack access to reliable public transportation. For small businesses that rely on deliveries, transportation, or service fleets, these increased expenses will be passed down to consumers, contributing to higher prices on essential goods and services.

Before imposing new taxes, the government should first ensure that current transportation funds are being managed efficiently. Misallocation and waste in existing budgets raise serious concerns about whether additional revenue will actually improve infrastructure or simply be absorbed by bureaucracy.

Instead of punishing drivers with higher fuel and vehicle taxes, policymakers should explore fairer, more sustainable alternatives—such as reallocating existing revenues, incentivizing cleaner technologies, or implementing broader-based solutions that don't fall disproportionately on those who rely most on their vehicles.

In short, these proposed tax hikes are regressive, harmful to working households, and economically damaging at a time when people are already struggling with high costs. They should be rejected.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.