

Submitter: Kim Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Interim Committee On Transportation
Funding

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: LC 2

I work for the transportation department and although I am not at risk of being laid off, I think increasing the fees and gas tax and registration fees are worth the cost for the citizens of Oregon that they do not lose the level of service that we are accustomed to receiving. I looked at the department of energy and found what the average annual gas usage for an Oregonian (328.5 gal) as well as the average for a US citizen (500-650 gal) are with the most recent data. If we use the highest value of 650 gallons, that comes to an additional cost of \$39 annually or \$3.25 per month. Saving the jobs of 483 employees and ensuring our roads are maintained year round with plowing, keeping runoff managed, mowing to keep fire fuels down and keeping striping visible among other things IS WORTH IT. All of our goods and services use our public roads at some point whether we like it or not. Not funding the budget will only hurt Oregonians causing almost 500 of your constituents to lose their jobs, slower response times in inclement weather, and ultimately higher prices on goods and services when it takes longer for items to reach the shelves in stores or folks end up going without. Lack of funding doesn't make our problems go away either, rather delaying work allows our roads to deteriorate having more costly repair later. I have also read multiple articles about the downstream affects on other municipalities who get funding from us, and if ODOT doesn't receive funding will cause transit service reductions or suspensions affecting the poor the most. I hope that funding will be indexed to inflation in the future so that we don't have to keep worrying about being able to provide this necessary work for our citizens. My coworkers and I take pride in knowing we are helping to improve our communities with the work that we do because it improves safety and accessibility while physically connecting us to one another. Please consider funding the ODOT budget, and God Bless