

Submitter: Trevor Hoagland

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

To whom it may concern,

I am considered a successful person in my industry & considered successful by standards of income in most states but not Oregon. While my wife and I are dual income full time employers, both making almost out more than 6 figures per person, we can barely provide for a family of four.

We can even barely do stuff we took for granted with our kids. Making memories is relegated to tiny opportunities (hopefully free). The idea of a vacation is outside our income level & it hard sometimes for a staycation. I'd hate to imagine how it is for people on minimum wage as it crushes hope. Oregon keeps us surviving yet somehow never thriving. We manage a very tight & very controlled budget. Yet somehow we always end up owing money & we never get any breaks it seems. While we want no handouts, help would be nice but we qualify for nothing as we have an "income."

So, with that in perspective, why is the state asking for more mover on a repeatedly failed system that admits it lost a lot of money? It seems to fail, a lot, yet still votes for pay raises or a raise in funds for special projects? It seems simple: it is because they are not being good stewards of the taxed money from its citizens; not counting FTX donations if course. Also, the cost of government has skyrocketed disproportionately to the size. Peculiar and yes some sarcasm.

Ask someone in the private sector with similar issues on there projects, such as it being excessively over budget or lost a lot of money, and a company will not renew the project. They may try and even find where the money went and/or try to recoup it in some way.

A personal example include the Thompson road project in the Bethany area. It's celebrating a year of construction for something that's claimed to be done by late August. Seems so simple too. However, it looks like it won't be done on that end until after summer and they keep cutting the new pavement up. Then they will tear the other end out next spring to redo the intersection and connect the unused end blocking up traffic again in a different way and blocking the scroll. And don't forget in the process that they also blocked off a neighborhood exit so it is down to only one point of exit/entry with no way to as another.

That's just one example. I would also call out the disaster on 217 of course. While you could blame bad city planning I don't see it much better in other cities.

Now, this bill, the taxes identified clearly hurt the Oregon economy, consumers, and chase away Oregon residents as well. This privileged tax alone seems discriminatory already. So we're doubling down on it. I think I see more cars bought out of state let alone uhauls exiting the state. In fact, I already knowing many people across the state already planning to leave before this bill was announced. I expect that's many more will be joining that list.

If this is a reflection of the existing super majority, which has one unelected official now, please understand that this legislative session is showing the state exactly what to expect in the future:

- Introducing a bill at the last minute.
- Providing little detail.
- No real budget or limitation set.
- Not "the best for last" either.

I hope we can be reasonable but I am also concerned as it seems most federally paid employees and union workers of a certain opinion/leaning are rushing through the week for their "No King" weekend plans. As such, I expect this to fall on a super majority of deaf ears and hear reasoning of "for the sake of the children" via climate change or illegal aliens needing jobs too.

Please prove me wrong. Help your Oregonians want to be here, stay here, and help them thrive here. I was born in Medford as third generation in that's city but we've been here since the founding. I'm one of the few remaining as the others moved. This is not the state we grew up in and the "party for working class families" seems to be the root cause strangely.

Respectfully,  
Trevor Hoagland