

Submitter: Paul Carbaugh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Hello Committee Chairs and committee members,
I am opposed to HB2025 for many reasons.

1. The bill states that an audit shall be conducted of ODOT. I agree that an audit needs to be done and it should be a forensic financial audit since there was a million dollar discrepancy in their budget. There has also been cost overruns on many major projects that need to be explained to you and the public. We need to find out what is going on within ODOT to cause these issues and corrective actions need to be implemented, where necessary.

2. I strongly disagree that increasing taxes and fees, as this bill proposes, should be approved and imposed when you, the committee, don't know what the problem is yet. The audit hasn't been performed yet to give you guidance.

I am 69 years old, I served in the Army for 21 years and I ran a garbage and recycling company here in Oregon. I rely on my Army retirement and Social Security for my monthly income. Yes, I do have some savings but with the rising costs of most everything I have to dip into that savings to pay for necessities. I don't travel, I don't buy things just because I want them or anything else frivolous. There are many people in my situation plus Oregonians who are still working, trying to make ends meet and raising a family. We can't afford these tax and fee increases on transportation.

Oregonians who live outside of metropolitan areas rely on their own transportation to get them to work, go shopping, take their children to school and go to medical appointments. You are hurting us.

Audit ODOT as the bill requires, Identify the problems. Come up with solutions for the problems. Present your findings. This is what I did in the Army and in private business and it works. You just don't throw money at a problem it doesn't work because the problem is still present.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 2025. It is financially crippling to many Oregonians, businesses, farmers and ranchers.