

Submitter: Joanne Vatore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Testimony in Opposition to Oregon HB 2025

Presented by: Joanne Vatore

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Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am here today to express my strong opposition to HB 2025—a bill that threatens to devastate Oregon's working families, worsen our already unbearable cost of living, and push more people into homelessness.

Oregon is at a breaking point. With skyrocketing rents, inflation, and financial instability, countless residents are already struggling to make ends meet. Instead of addressing these hardships, HB 2025 piles an overwhelming tax burden onto everyday Oregonians, pushing essential costs even higher.

Let's be clear:

- This bill raises the gas tax from 40 to 55 cents per gallon, adding even more strain on families who rely on their vehicles to commute to work, school, and medical appointments. With further inflation indexing, the cost of fuel will become an ever-increasing burden, disproportionately affecting low-income and rural communities.
- HB 2025 implements and raises multiple vehicle taxes and fees, including a new tax on the sale of both new and used vehicles, doubling the vehicle privilege tax, and increases in registration, licensing, and delivery fleet permit fees. Oregon families cannot afford these endless hikes on basic transportation necessities.
- It triples the payroll tax—a direct hit on workers who are already trying to survive in one of the most expensive states in the country.
- And with the introduction of a mandatory Road Usage Charge, even fuel-efficient and electric vehicle owners—many of whom made environmentally conscious choices—will now face a costly new tax calculated per mile driven.

This bill does not improve affordability. It accelerates financial despair.

Instead of lifting struggling residents, HB 2025 will push more Oregonians into homelessness. We are seeing a massive increase in evictions as families fail to keep up with rent and bills. If enacted, this bill will ensure that more people lose their homes, more businesses suffer, and more communities decline.

I urge you to reject HB 2025 and instead focus on solutions that actually support hardworking Oregonians rather than punishing them for simply trying to survive.

Thank you.