

Submitter: Branden Walters
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025
To: The Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment
Regarding: HB 2025 Opposition

My name is Branden Walters, and I am a native Oregonian who relocated to Hawaii from 2002-2012 with my parents as a child. Growing up in the Aloha State gave me a lot of amazing memories and helped shape me into the individual I am today, but one of the questions I always get asked when my roots get brought up is one that I can share a sentiment today regarding my personal feelings as a single father of 3 children here in the Beaver State. That questions is "why on earth did you move back to Oregon and not stay in Maui?"

Representatives and Senators of the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session,

The cost of living is too high.

Oregon continues to rank in the top 5 most expensive states to live in. We are currently 17% above the national average for cost of living. It is currently costing the average Oregonian household to spend an additional ~\$22000/year to maintain the same quality of life in 2019. HB 2025 will continue to add to these metrics by adding more and more taxes on the citizens. There is a reason why Oregon's net population has continued to decrease year by year since 2020 and it's not just because of the natural order of life. Oregon ranked #48th in the US for lowest annual salaries on average while the cost of living continues to increase year by year. In Hawaii, there is a saying that the locals who live there are being 'priced out of paradise'. What will Oregon's motto for population decline be?

Transportation costs for the average Oregonian are currently around 23% higher then the national average. If HB 2025 is passed, these numbers could potentially climb to more than 30% the national average.

To the Representatives and Senators who have continued to oppose this bill, thank you for all you are doing to make Oregon a better place to live.

To the Representatives and Senators who continue to support this bill, you need to do better for your citizens or there won't be anyone left to vote you all in next election.