

Submitter: David Cordon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3402
Governor Is Not a Monarch

Oregonians value democracy and accountability, not unchecked executive power. HB 3402 shifts the appointment of the ODOT Director from the Oregon Transportation Commission to the Governor, a move rightly criticized as an "accountability charade" that centralizes authority without real oversight. The Governor is not a queen and does not need more unilateral power over the people or state agencies—such changes undermine the checks and balances that protect our freedoms.

No New Taxes—Oregonians Have Had Enough

HB 3402 proposes raising \$2.3 billion through increased gas taxes and vehicle fees, with the statewide gas tax jumping from 40 to 43 cents per gallon and vehicle registration and title fees rising sharply. Oregonians are already burdened by some of the highest tax rates in the nation, with the state collecting around \$70 billion annually from its residents. New taxes and fees are intolerable, especially as many families are considering leaving the state due to the rising cost of living and tax fatigue.

The true path to a better Oregon is not more taxes or power grabs, but real accountability and productivity with the funds already collected. With \$70 billion a year in tax revenue, Oregonians expect efficient use of their money, not bureaucratic expansion and waste. HB 3402 fails to address the need for genuine oversight or deliver the local funding and safety improvements our communities need.

Oregonians demand responsible governance—not more taxes, not more executive power, and not empty promises. HB 3402 is the wrong direction for Oregon.